

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXI.]

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BIRTHS.

On 10th June, at Hankow, to Mr. and Mrs. BERTRAM JONES, a son.

On 11th June, at Soochow, the wife of T. M. THOMAS, of a son.

On 14th June, at Shanghai, the wife of FREDERICK ANDERSON, of a daughter.

On 23rd June, at No. 4, Canton Villas, Kowloon, the wife of THOS. SKINNER, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On 10th June, at Shanghai, FRANCIS ARTHUR WELLS to ADINA ANNIE (DAISY) PEEBLES.

On 10th June, at Shanghai, CHARLES RICHARDS to ESTHER BEATRICE, second daughter of the late WILLIAM JAMES SAYLE, of Shanghai.

DEATHS.

On 10th June, at Shanghai, Captain H. H. CUNNINGHAM, aged 67 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of May 23rd arrived, per the s.s. *Sachsen* on Wednesday, the 21st inst.; and the French Mail of May 26th arrived, per the s.s. *Tourane*, this morning.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A Sugar-Trust has been formed at Osaka with a capital of Y 3,000,000.

The *Manila Cables* reports "a wave of corruption among municipal treasurers."

Admiral Rozhdestvensky is improving in health and his wound is healing favourably.

Cantonese "local gentry" are said to be vigorously opposing the Kowloon-Canton railway.

Chinese Commodore Sah and a number of naval cadets are going to the German naval manœuvres to study.

In the interport regatta at Kobe on the 9th and 10th inst., Kobe won the single sculls, and the pairs, and Yokohama the fours.

One of the secretaries of the Chinese Board of Commerce has asked leave to visit Europe at his own expense in order to study there.

The Yokohama Specie Bank opened a branch in Chefoo on June 15th, with Mr. Sugihara (sub-manager from Shanghai) as manager.

The Norwegian steamer *Tungus* arrived at Chefoo on June 8th with 150 tons of Korean ginseng aboard, said to be worth over a million taels.

If the proposed exchange of prisoners takes place, how many Russians will have to be "swopped" for one Japanese? It will be worse than nine tailors to one man.

The Philippines Government is advertising for bids for railway concessions, open only to American subjects or companies. Bids are to be accepted until November 1st.

The Opium Farmer is publicly offering a reward of \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons in the habit of smuggling opium into the Colony.

According to *France Militaire*, Vice-Admiral Richard has been appointed to command the French Far Eastern Squadron. Rear-Admiral Ravel will command the second division.

Some rolls of silk gauze and a fan have been sent down to Viceroy Ching Chih-tung from the Empress Dowager. The *Peking Times* thinks she is most anxious that he should keep cool.

Now that the war has rounded a great turning stage, we think the present a fitting moment to put on record the profound feeling of gratitude we entertain towards England, our ally.—*Jiji*, Tokyo.

Instructions have been despatched to all the provinces to open and work all the known mines in each province as soon as possible, using either Government or private funds for the purpose.

The Adam's Peak Hotel Co., Ltd., at Colombo has gone into voluntary liquidation. The hotel will be sold publicly for anything over R 60,000; or to a syndicate of present shareholders for R 45,000.

The *Peking Times* understands that Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. have secured the contract for the 5,000 tons steel rails, with a proper proportion of fastenings, at the total cost of £36,635.

The Russians having made application to work the petroleum wells in Chinese Turkistan, which promise to be very productive, the Chinese Government is now engaged trying to prevent this enterprise.

One of His Majesty's public business departments in London is under the impression that letters to Hongkong require 2½d. stamps. A letter delivered in Hongkong recently bore a stamp of that value.

Chou Fu is proposing to open a national bank in Nanking on the lines of the Hupeh one. Banks, the *Peking Times* comments, will presently become as numerous as the mints and add to the financial confusion.

An attempt was made by ten of the *Orel's* crew to blow up her port magazine while the Japanese prize crew was taking her to Maisuru. It was discovered at the critical moment, and eight of the Russians were shot on the spot.

The German Minister is said to have requested that the magistrate at Haichow be reprimanded for his want of care in despatching a sensational telegram about the Germans having seized the island when nothing of the kind had occurred.

It is reported that Russia is seriously annoyed because Miss Roosevelt is to visit Japan. Russian officials are supposed to be sufficiently unsophisticated to regard the American President's daughter as occupying the status of a princess of a royal house.

It is reported that in trying to arrange an indemnity for the murder of French missionaries at Patang, mining concessions instead of money have been asked for. But the Chinese properly point out that mission work and commerce are distinct, and refuse the demand.

There is an amusing summary of a Tibetan petition to the Chinese Emperor published by the *Sinwanpao*. They crave pardon for murdering a Chinese official, on the ground that their offence was merely to anticipate what His Majesty would have done, i.e., get rid of avaricious officials.

The report of S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd., for the year ending the 30th of April last shows a divisible balance, after payment of an interim dividend of 5 per cent., of Tls. 576,524. It is noted by the *N.-C. Daily News* that in the total assets, stated at Tls. 7,455,033, is included a sum of Tls. 329,872, cash in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

According to the *Seoul Press Weekly*, No. 1 of which arrived June 22nd, the Emperor of Korea sent a message of congratulation, on the naval victory, to the Japanese Emperor on the 30th May. Also: It is reported that Korean postage stamps and cards will no longer be used after the 30th of June, and that from that time Japanese ones will take their place.

The *Shanghai Mercury Ltd.*'s annual report states:—Profit and Loss Account:—After paying an Interim Dividend of 4 per cent. in December last, writing off Tls. 4,295.83 for Depreciation, etc., reducing the Goodwill Account by Tls. 2,000, and providing for Directors' and Auditor's fees, the balance to credit of this account amounts to Tls. 6,420, out of which the Directors propose to pay a final dividend of 5 per cent., absorbing Tls. 5,250, and to carry forward the balance of Tls. 1,107.

MORE ABOUT JUDICIAL TORTURE.

Daily Press, 17th June.

The Hongkong Society for the Abolition of Judicial Torture in China, of which the learned Italian Consul, Chevalier VOLPICELLI, is the founder and a most enthusiastic member, is entertaining a lively hope that its labours are about to bear further fruit. There are indications that Chinese public opinion is being influenced successfully; and that the EMPRESS-DOWAGER, if she has not already seen it, is likely to have her attention drawn to the literature on the subject that is being disseminated. Prince CH'ING has accepted a number of copies of Chev. VOLPICELLI's pamphlet; and other copies have been distributed amongst the members of the Wai-wu-pu, the Presidents of the various Boards, and other influential persons at Peking. All this, while it is now receiving the hearty support and co-operation of the diplomatic corps at Peking, was started without any invocation of their aid, the promoters probably realising that "what is everybody's business is nobody's," and that if the initiative were left to the Ministers, the work might be indefinitely delayed, while those individuals were endeavouring to arrive at a collective decision. It has been suggested in a high quarter, where, as in our case, the distinction drawn by the local Society between torture like *ling-ch'ih* and the judicial extortion of evidence has evidently been overlooked, that the recent Imperial Edicts instituting reforms in the Chinese penal code were the results of the Chinese desire to forestall the good advice they had heard of as coming. There is not sufficient ground for such a suggestion, the probability being that His Excellency WU TING-FANG moved in the matter without knowing of the half-loaf application about to be made. It was, as we said, a coincidence. We must explain, perhaps, that by the "half-loaf" phrase we mean nothing depreciatory of the Hongkong Society's movement. It agreed, we believe, to confine its efforts to securing the abolition of the Chinese method of extorting confessions and other evidence by torture, in the belief that this was an immediately practicable proposition involving only an appeal to the common-sense of the Chinese; and that it might be secured without waiting for a wholesale recognition by the Chinese mind of the principles of humanity. WU TING-FANG, being a reformer of whole-hearted ideals and convictions, attacked the broad question of principle, without recking of expediency. The wording of the Edict abolishing *ling-ch'ih* and reducing the severity of Chinese punishments clearly shows that its motif was of the nature of gentling the Chinese temper and of abating its vindictiveness. The wording just as clearly showed, in its care-free mentions of "summary" decapitation, and the like, that the dictator or drafter had not experienced the humane and pitiful sentiments of those who presumably inspired its origin. Nor do we believe that an Oriental nature can be refined, its disposition softened, by argument; and although the Edict was a sign of success, it was as evident by the instant chorus of official disapproval that it had failed to touch the springs of that quality which "droppeth as the gentle dew from heaven." The members of the local society, including Chev. VOLPICELLI, know the Chinese intimately. They share the sentiments of WU TING-FANG; but they do not share his optimism. They expect to achieve something by appealing to Chinese reason; they leave to others the tedious task of

discovering the well of tender sentiment which only indulgent and hopeful observers like Mr. CECIL CLEMENTI have so far professed to find. Hence, they have preferred half a loaf to no bread, or rather, after the recent Edict, we had better say, half a loaf to a crumb. They have not got even the half-loaf yet, but, as we have said, the prospects are good. The Society has gone the right way to work. NIETSCHE remarks somewhere that the thoughts that govern the world advance with dove-like steps, and the thoughts of Chevalier VOLPICELLI and his friends, destined to govern China in this connection, are tripping softly down the hieroglyphic stairs of all the influential vernacular journals. Latin thoughts in latin letters, translated into radicals, are sowing the seed of a radical reform. Soon, it is hoped, China will no longer use judicial tortments, for (as the old Scotch warrants in similar circumstances used to express it) "the better bouldinge forth of the truth." They will realise, as the case is properly presented to them, how untrustworthy is all testimony offered in the delirium of physical pain; and that one 'old custom' at least is as foolish as it is cruel.

THE "SEETHING POT" OF NORWAY.

(Daily Press, 19th June.)

At a time when the affairs of Norway and Sweden are being forced upon the world's attention, any accurate information about either of those countries is very welcome. We are, therefore, glad to publish GLOBETROTTER's interesting letter, although we are extremely sorry to find that our comments on the 12th instant should have so shocked him by their "ignorance." We tried to treat the subject good-humouredly, not wishing to add to the ill-feeling that obviously exists between the two peoples. Since receiving our esteemed Norwegian correspondent's letter, we have read what we wrote, and looked up the "dry bones of history" to see if our recollection of their spirit and purport was at fault. As a result, we feel entitled to gently reprimand GLOBETROTTER for charging us with "some inaccuracies." The use of the uncomplimentary word "ignorance" we can forgive, in view of the circumstance that we had referred to Norway as the weaker partner. We might have known that no Norwegian would stand that. As a matter of historical record, then, we will plead guilty to one inaccuracy. For our impression that Sweden ever co-operated with Norway in its very successful raids on England, we have been unable to discover any sufficient cause. To Norway be all the honour and glory.

The claim of Norwegians to be "more recognised" is a just one. We could wish, for instance, that GLOBETROTTER would recognise his nationals as others see them. Our sympathy is largely with Norway in this matter, because we are not ignorant of the fact that Norway, although prosecuting agriculture vigorously, is, like England, able to furnish sufficient produce for nut home consumption; and it is therefore hard on her that Sweden should seek to force upon her a protectionist policy. But this, as GLOBETROTTER knows, is not really the bone of contention. We deprecate any quarrelling between the Scandinavian peoples, and believe that if the principles of the "National Scandinavian Society," founded in 1864, were perfectly understood, the Union would be allowed to continue. Its purview included three kingdoms, but

the Society would doubtless be satisfied to see Sweden and Norway showing a united front in all foreign relations, while reserving independent internal administration. Is it out of the question to define the fiscal policy as much an internal as a foreign policy?

We fear that GLOBETROTTER, and his brethren in Norway, are indeed "somewhat Chauvinistic." Our statement that Norway in 1898 was "refused a purely Norwegian flag" was not erroneous and our correspondent immediately after contradicting it, admits that "it is true." We and he merely express the same fact a little differently. These Norwegian claims are purely Chauvinistic. If it be desirable that Norway and Sweden should unite as Scandinavians when dealing with foreigners, it seems to us that it is reasonable to have a flag to mark the union. Great Britain is not ashamed of the flag which clearly shows the union of Scotland, and Ireland, and those countries (unlike Norway) would object to the removal of their national emblems from the union flag. If Wales has a grievance, it is perhaps that she does not figure as prominently thereon. The fact seems to be that the Norwegian patriots need to recognise the difference between patriotism proper and improper, between sane revolution and mere Chauvinistic rebellion. M. TAINÉ in his "Origins of Contemporary France" institutes an illuminating comparison between the Jacobins and real reformers. The latter may be constructors: they have positive ideals for which to strive. The latter quarrel with accepted facts, mere iconoclasts. "He knows only that everything frets him, . . . desires to vent his muddled and blustering ill-humour on all around him, . . . frequently turns against imaginary evils, follows puerile aims, or even fights against those laws which are wise and beneficent." Why? Because, TAINÉ shrewdly suggests, "however perfect institutions, laws, and manners may be, since they have preceded him, he has not assented to them at all; others, his predecessors, have chosen for him, and have enclosed him, in advance, in a . . . political mould which pleased them." The Union of 1814 was a "wise and beneficent" measure. Its wisdom and beneficence will be again recognised if ever Russia resumes her old policy. "Norway for the Norwegians" may be a positive ideal; it is admittedly a Chauvinistic one; and Scandinavia for the Scandinavians would be preferable. We did not intend thus to take a side, but preferred to confine ourselves to pacifying words. In a way, GLOBETROTTER has robbed us of our intended reticence.

But in admiration for Norway and Norwegians, we are all that he could desire. We could catalogue more great men than he names; and, by the way, we would not put IBSÉN first. He is admittedly a poet of great power, but he is the archetype of that emotional Norwegian whom we regard as an unworthy descendant of our common Viking ancestry. The prevailing wind of his temper is, like the adagial Irishman, "agin the Gov'mint." In art and technique he is great; in philosophy we think him ignoble. That by the way. We will not dispute GLOBETROTTER's right as a Norwegian to suggest that his countrymen are more democratic than the Swedes. We admit ignorance as to that, but we believe that Sweden also is democratic. It had an elective monarchy early in the fourteenth century, and although that arrangement was upset two centuries later, the heaven of democracy has been working ever since. The mountains that divide the two countries are not so high that the

national characteristics are entirely dissimilar. Norwegians may be "too proud to become Swedes." So far as we know, they have received no such invitation. No Scotsman wants to be an Englishman, or vice versa, but they do not fight about it. They are not ashamed of the name Britons; and a man may be a good Norwegian without objecting to be classed with the Swede as a Scandinavian. It is certainly Chauvinistic of GLOBETROTTER to boast that Norway once gave Sweden a decided beating; and we fancy the inaccuracy is on his side when he says that "no page in history can be brought up as evidence of a Norwegian defeat in battle at the hands of Sweden."

We read that the Kings of Denmark and Sweden, after defeating and slaying Olaf I. (the king who "established Christianity by force and cruelty"), divided Norway between them (A.D. 1000). On the 16th July, 1814, the Swedish troops entered Norway, and the same year Charles XIII. of Sweden was proclaimed king. There does not seem to have been a really decisive battle, but if the Norwegians defeated the Swedes, why did they accept a Swedish King? We will not, however, labour an unpleasant point unnecessarily. We cannot withdraw our remark about Norway being the weaker partner. In one way, recent history is sufficient to confirm it. Union is strength, and Norway is weak enough to wish to dissolve a union that has conserved Scandinavian strength in times of common peril. We hope they will never regret their separatist policy; and cordially echo our correspondent's wish that there may be no war. We do not think there will be war. GLOBETROTTER, in thinking that there is a strong strain of Norwegian and Danish blood in the veins of the English, thinks rightly. In the Hebrides, he will find unmistakable Norsemen, who still talk of "Viking" (Vikings); and in England proper, the rural dialects of the north west contain to-day many purely Norwegian nouns that are in daily use. We are far from being ashamed of this fine strain; and trust that our Norwegian correspondent will accept these comments as well-meant and friendly, however erroneous, inaccurate, or ignorant they may in his eyes appear.

POPULAR EDUCATION IN RUSSIA.

(Daily Press 20th June.)

There is something humorous about the recent announcement that the Tsar NICHOLAS II. has decreed that education within his realms shall be compulsory. It smacks of the policy of the parent who compels his young hopeful to smoke a strong cigar to the bitter end in the hope of curing him of his fancy for an injurious habit. For while PETER the Great valued public instruction, and carefully selected a Minister therefor, the present Tsar's ancestors have not been very keen on enlightening the mental darkness of their subjects. His ancestral namesake, NICHOLAS I., regarded the Universities as hot-beds of revolution, and imposed high fees and limited the number of students, in the vain hope of suppressing the trouble. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was made as inaccessible as possible, lest the rising generation should become sufficiently wise to choose the good. His opinion was that the sole reason for the existence of these training centres was the preparation of a few young men for public service. Anything beyond that was considered mischievous. In all the primary schools, under state supervision—and of these there were by no means many—Russian language and

Russian history alone were permitted; and we may take it for granted that, as happens in most countries, the history books were carefully edited. Professor SKRINE, in the Cambridge Historical Series, says: "The nature of the political instruction meted out is indicated by the following extract from a catechism imposed by NICHOLAS on all schools.—Q. 'What does religion teach us as our duty to the Tsar?' A. 'Worship, fidelity, the payment of taxes, service, love, and prayer; the whole being comprised in the words worship and fidelity.' NICHOLAS' attention was given chiefly to military education; and the Russian army schools were the best in Europe. . . . That the navy was not neglected was proved by the heroism shown by the crews of the Black Sea Fleet during the Crimean War." Then, and now! It must not be overlooked, by the way, that the first NICHOLAS was in many ways a most enlightened and humane monarch. His one mistake was in muzzling knowledge. From his point of view, perhaps, it was no mistake, for "an absolute government has no foe more deadly than a free Press." But as he was constantly thwarted in other reforms by the bureaucracy, just as the present NICHOLAS has been, progress would have come more quickly and more surely with popular education and an unmuzzled Press, just as it seems to be coming now, deluge-wise, since information has leaked in, and the Press has progressed even under its notorious difficulties. ALEXANDER II. was responsible for broadening the educational scheme of the Empire. In 1864, all primary schools were subsidized, and placed under the *zemstvos*. The elementary course then included reading, arithmetic, writing, and the scriptures. The curriculum of secondary schools was, however, still carefully restricted; and the *zemstvos* found their laudable ambitions checked by a very obvious obstacle, the dearth of teachers. The Russian officials had no mind, of course, to do as Japan did, and import foreigners to unfold western lore, which was practically as new to the Russia of even that late date as it was to China and Japan. ALEXANDER II. removed the restrictions from the Universities, which immediately began to take in youths from the poorer classes. It was then that the present revolution had its birth. The doctrines of Socialism, then gaining ground in Europe, were like honey to the youthful Slavs, who are, like the universal youth, "prone to aspirations for the good of humanity, and to yearn after impossible ideals of brotherhood." MILL and BUCKLE in translation spread like a fever over young Russia. Officialdom took alarm. "In 1861, Admiral PUTIATIN, who had distinguished himself in the Far East, was appointed Minister of Public Instruction." He protested against a system which was rearing a brood of revolutionaries at State expense, and his severe measures caused a students' riot, during which, as usual, troops were employed. ALEXANDER III. remembered this, and when he took the reins of Government, he thought to suppress Nihilism by reverting to his grandfather's policy of restriction. High schools of every grade were closed to the children of servants and working men. But riots became even more frequent, and during the eighties, the student was regarded as, and behaved as, an enemy within the gates. In the jubilee year of the British Queen VICTORIA, all the universities and high schools were closed, and many mere boys banished to Siberia. Secondary and primary schools were not interfered with, and made considerable

advances during ALEXANDER III.'s reign. There were 39,000 primary schools, with 2,025,000 scholars enrolled. This number, of course, is absurdly small in proportion to the population and is absolutely dwarfed by Japan's figures. A startling and rapid change should appear if the news be true that education is now to be compulsory upon the masses. It will be curious, moreover, to watch how a country can get along simultaneously with compulsory learning and a muzzled Press.

CHINA'S INDEMNITY DEBT.

(Daily Press, 21st June.)

There is really very little that is new in the disclosures of the indefatigable Peking correspondent of the *Times*, some comments upon which were reproduced in our issue of yesterday; but those who remember the staid and conservative tone of an older *Times*, may wonder, perhaps, at the straining after sensationalism nowadays permitted. Foreign claims against China are described as "extortionate and unjust," "fabricated," "the iniquitous and disgraceful project of exaction," an "exorbitant war indemnity"; and the claimants are all that can be suggested in such phrases as "the pretensions of her grasping creditors," "shameless rapacity," "dishonest profits," and so on. Thus collated, the vigorous expressions of our London contemporary might not improbably startle that journal, and 'give it furiously to think' if it had really meant all it said. For after all, circumstances alter cases, and remembering many matters connected with that owing indemnity, we are indisposed to join the censors of the white creditors of the yellow debtor. The writer of the article quoted would perhaps tone down those hard words were it not so long since the items of the bill were set forth in detailed account. He does remember more recent things, and goes so far as to admit that the foreigners, and particularly Great Britain, owe China nothing on the ground that Chinese promises have ever been fairly and honestly kept. It is rather interesting to recall that one of the undertakings of the MACKAY Treaty was to reform the currency system of China; and we like to think that these claims to interest and exchange differences, which the *Times* regards as "fabricated," are by way of being useful reminders to the effete gang at Peking that the fluctuations of exchange do make a difference. China will not think any the worse of the foreign SHYLOCKS (as the same foreign journal has recently called them) for exacting their pound of flesh. That is business, and for exorbitance and injustice will not put many Chinese official "squeezes" into the shade. Extortion seems natural enough in China. The inditer of all those quoted words mentions incidentally that "in three short years the Shanghai TAOTAI has amassed a large private fortune, and satisfied the greed of Peking by the variety and ingenuity of his lawless extortions." We are not attempting to argue that two blacks make one white, but suggesting that the whole circumstances of the case scarcely warrant the wasteful use of so many condemnatory adjectives at the expense of China's foreign creditors. It is not at all unlikely that these virtuous commentators, supposing that the foreign creditors had been simple enough to stand the loss on exchange, and the loss of interest, would have been pointing out how wrong the Governments were to allow such an illicit reduction of the debt originally contracted. The curious thing is that those denunciatory words were

not directed at the foreign Powers' demands for payment in gold, with interest. "So far," the writer said, "there is no ground for complaint." The awful point is made that whereas China had the £1,200,000 ready to hand over on January 1st, the Powers could not agree upon a date for accepting it, and the latter now have the "grasping pretension" to insist that when she does pay, China must pay four per cent. interest on it from January 1st. This, we must admit, grieves us more than it grieves the *Times*. If we had only known on December 31st that such wickedness was intended, we would have accepted the £1,200,000 next day from China, and saved her from the imposition by ourselves paying the four per cent. to the Powers until they decided to take delivery of the money! We should, moreover, have tried not to lose by our philanthropy. Much is made of the fact that China is being penalised for a delay for which she was not responsible. It is, indeed, something new for China to be in the position of bemoaning delay, even by proxy. But at four per cent., it seems likely that Russia, for instance, would rather have had her share, and foregone that amount of interest. We do not see, in view of the customs and conditions of financial business in these parts, how the *Times* is able to declare that the incidental claims arising out of the indemnity payment are for "a profit which we know to be dishonest." Such expressions, including not only the respective Governments, but also the Ministers in Peking who have to conduct the negotiations, seem wholly objectionable. The representative at Peking of the journal which editorially made them will probably not like them any more than we do. The leader referred to closed with these words: "The present system [in China] affords them two of the dearest pleasures known to Chinese human nature—the hope of illicit gains and the excitement of an incessant gamble. Those are joys they will not lightly forego." The present system has drawbacks as well as joys, and if the official Chinese are enabled to realise this much while paying for their criminal folly of 1900, the wickedness exposed by our contemporary cannot be regarded as altogether an unmixed evil.

RUSSIAN INSULT AND INJURY.

(Daily Press 22nd June.)

Reflecting upon the admissions of Count LAMSDORFF, Russia's Foreign Minister, admissions that were none the less remarkable because mainly implied, we conclude that our London correspondent's telegram, announcing the purport of the reply to Lord LANSLOWNE's enquiries regarding the treatment of the British steamer *St. Kilda*, indicated a more serious state of affairs than has yet been realised. The behaviour of the Russian officers of the *Dnieper*, now fully described in the interview reproduced elsewhere in this issue, was of a peculiarly impudent and provocative character, all the annoying features that were present in the assaults on British shipping in the Red Sea being present in aggravated form. The allusion to the British flag's conspicuity during the infamous target practice is particularly galling; and the high-handed meddling with His Majesty's Mail is another feature that will not tend to make the Russian offence appear less heinous in British eyes. When Russian naval men were misbehaving in the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, it will be remembered that the Russian Government

admitted its responsibility for their misdeeds, but in its apology urged that British shipping had not been especially singled out for such attentions, and pleaded that it was difficult for it to get into communication with its officers so as to order them to desist. It will be remembered that Great Britain undertook to convey any such orders; and that the offences were stopped, and forgiven, on Russia's explicit assurance that nothing of the kind would occur again. Now it has occurred again, as we have said, in an aggravated form. We pass over the Dogger Bank affair as irrelevant, an affair that was settled, and cannot now be counted in the total of Russia's indictment; but we cannot but consider that the sinking of the *St. Kilda* re-opens the whole subject of Russia's trespasses against us. We are not surprised that her assurances and promises have been set at naught by her own officers. Russian pledges are proverbially untrustworthy. But we shall be surprised, and somewhat disappointed, if the British Government rests satisfied with another evasive apology, and any such feeble excuse as that the accident would not have happened but for the disorganisation of her navy. If Count LAMSDORFF means that the *Dnieper* was, as it were, insane from defeat, and running amok, we would like to hear of its prompt suppression as the amoking fanatic is usually suppressed. The excuse savours strongly, however, of the criminal who pleads drunkenness as a reason why he should not be punished. It may even be that the Russian tongue was in the Russian cheek when it was made, as we suspect was the case when the explanation was made that more British ships were molested because there happened to be more of them. We will not suggest, as some will undoubtedly do, that this was still another attempt to involve England so that face might be saved by surrendering to some Power other than Japan. If such a theory is to be seriously considered, we would say that Great Britain need not handle Russia with gloved hands because of it. In the eyes of the whole world, the Russo-Japan war is over. Russian might and Russian prestige is the admitted captive of Japan's bow and spear. Where Great Britain's might may be supposed to be, or how her prestige will stand the strain, if she fails to exact a most ample apology and adequate compensation for this latest insult and injury, it would be hard to say.

GERMAN POLICY.

(Daily Press, 23rd June.)

That the German EMPEROR in seeking to uphold the SULTAN of Morocco, and thus hazarding a contest with France, has other objects in view than the mere promotion of German interests in that somewhat benighted state, is evident to most minds conversant with the present political position in Europe: but what those objects are is not so self-evident. Strangely enough, while thus apparently indifferent as to disturbing the peace of Europe, he desires to appear foremost in restoring the already broken peace of the Far East, and almost officiously would take from President ROOSEVELT the credit of bringing about peace between Russia and Japan. Of course the Emperor WILLIAM II. has never posed as an advocate for consistency, and it is only fair to him that we should, in forming our judgment, keep this fact in mind. Peace with him is a good thing, to be striven for earnestly; but peace at any

price has never found favour in his eyes. We are not, therefore, as there seems a disposition to do in some quarters, to hastily assume that the EMPEROR is engaged in wantonly upsetting the status quo, but rather we must believe that he has some object very near his heart, in the pursuit of which he has seemingly strained amicable relations almost to the breaking point. However diplomatically he may seek to conceal the fact, there is no doubt that the EMPEROR has not seen with satisfaction the current of affairs in Eastern Asia. The defeat of Russia was probably not altogether distasteful; but that it should be so complete as to involve the practical destruction of her fleet, and should temporarily endanger the very existence of the Autocracy, was a sad reversal of many of his most cherished schemes. Under cover of, at the least, Russia's benevolent neutrality, the map of Europe, when the time came, was capable of great improvement. Germany, for instance, was by no means the self-contained Empire she ought to be: she had an insufficient outlook on the North Sea, and was altogether shut out from the Adriatic: and, worst of all, Bavaria was not so amenable to reason as she ought to be under the constitution of the Empire. Of course Austria would need to be consulted, and the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH was getting old, and was not amenable to the logic of these self-evident facts. Russia was there and, with her really admirable system of autocracy, was open to reason. There was here much in common, the TSAR was a good friend, and had a persuasive way about him; but those terrible Japanese, not content with their success in the war were, contrary to all good manners, actually pressing things a l'outrance! Something must be done, and that quickly. True, he had little sympathy with President ROOSEVELT, but he (the EMPEROR) had always posed as an advocate of peace, so he could not be charged with inconsistency if he joined hands with him; especially as it might be the means of getting his friend out of a very unpleasant scrape.

There is some reason to believe that some such line of argument passed through the EMPEROR's thought as he sat recently cogitating over the turn events were taking. Russia's navy was, he probably quite understood, a thing of comparatively small account; but as a dark horse it had its uses in the game he was playing, and its annihilation was not a thing to be contemplated with equanimity. The battle of Tsushima had so weakened it that further damage was to be prevented at all hazards: many of its best ships were interned in his own ports, and the restoration of these to their rightful owner might make all the difference. The practice of international law forbade his returning them as the case stood, but the obligation ceased on the conclusion of peace; evidently there was every reason why he should throw his influence into the cause of peace. An unlooked-for opportunity presented itself of pressing peaceful sentiments on one, at least, of the belligerents. The SOVEREIGN of Japan had received from the KAISER an invitation to be represented at the marriage of the CROWN PRINCE, and Prince ARISUGAWA, a near relation, had been sent. Not unwilling to bury past grievances, the KAISER received him with marked attention, and there is no doubt that the incident had some effect in rendering the Imperial representations, subsequently made, more acceptable. In all things we do not seek to impute to the German EMPEROR any unworthy motive; they are exactly the

things that would have commended themselves to any sanely constituted mind, and the EMPEROR has taken skilful advantage of the opportunities. They, however, explain much that has been misrepresented as inspired by some high minded disinterestedness, which has been altogether absent as an actuating motive. In other words, the German EMPEROR has been pressing peace between Russia and Japan, not from any sentimental feelings, but simply that it was his interest to save Russia from further calamity.

It is not so easy to fathom the actuating motive in the apparently altogether meaningless quarrel sought to be forced on France. In spite of his many asseverations to the contrary, there is little doubt that the recent understanding came to between France and England has not been altogether palatable at Berlin, where it has been looked upon as an answer to recent intimacies with Russia. Of all the topics discussed in the recent understanding, it happened that that of French relations with Morocco was the one received with least enthusiasm in England. Skilfully treated, Germany might have seriously endangered at the very outset the new entente. The KAISER took, however, a bad time, when many of the initial differences had just been removed by personal intercourse between the KING and the PRESIDENT, to pay his hasty and ill-considered visit to the SULTAN. This was accompanied by an act of almost studied personal rudeness, which prevented a meeting between the QUEEN and the EMPEROR. These conditions were unfortunate, but as neither France nor England desired to make them a cause of offence, they might have been removed or passed over. Unfortunately, with many of the virtues of earnestness, the EMPEROR accompanies them with some of its worst defects. Quite aware that he had committed a faux pas, he was yet too proud to retire when the door was opened from an untenable position, and a difficulty which a few words would have removed has now grown into large dimensions. The worst of the situation is that neither the world nor, for the matter of that, the parties themselves, are able to explain the misunderstanding. Germany has been stating in an indefinite way that France has been trying to impose her influence in Morocco in a manner detrimental to her (Germany's) interests. What those interests are she does not define, nor does she, unless in the most indefinite manner, point out the acts complained of. Departing from the usual course of diplomatic intercourse, the EMPEROR is credited with having made certain promises, which the SULTAN apparently took as an invitation to openly cast off any further relations. Alarmed at the result, the EMPEROR is said to have hastily retired, but apparently the contretemps did not lead him to explain his meaning sufficiently to do away with the false impression. Unfortunately, the course adopted by Germany is suggestive of the somewhat similar misunderstandings which occurred before the outbreak of the war of 1870. As explained by the chief actor in them, many years after, these misunderstandings had been carefully planned with the object of embroiling the two countries in a war. Now we do not desire to go the length of saying that the present German Chancellor, Count von Bulow, has any such intention, or really seeks to involve the two nations in a quarrel to be only decided by the arbitration of war. We can only point out the coincidences, which seem to be sufficient to excite in Europe the gravest apprehension for the immediate future.

JUSTICE AT HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 24th June.)

As great events may from little causes spring, we make no excuse for referring to the case of a humble Chinese workman, which seems to us to involve serious questions of principle. We refer to the prosecution, or persecution, of a Chinese pressman in the employ of the *Daily Press* office who has this week been fined \$50 with the alternative of two months' imprisonment for leaving his previous employment without proper notice. It is easy to conceive of circumstances under which the imposition of such a penalty would be fully justified, but in the present case we think the man was unjustly treated from beginning to end, and we sincerely hope the case may be an isolated rather than a typical one. The man was in the first place arrested without a vestige of legal sanction, and by what we at present regard as a most improper subterfuge. A Chinese detective sergeant of police entered our office without permission, found his man, and asked the manager if the man might accompany him to the police station "to answer some inquiries." Permission was, of course, readily given and the man went away with the police officer, not suspecting for a moment that he was being arrested. There was to our knowledge no mention of arrest or apprehension. As he was absent much longer than seemed necessary, inquiry was made by telephone and the information was elicited that the man was detained in custody on a charge of leaving his previous employment without proper notice. Though, as the reader is aware, to leave employment without notice is a criminal charge in Hongkong, yet the arrest of the man in this way was an outrage not sanctioned by the law of 1902 relating to Employers and Servants under which this charge was brought. Section 13 reads:—

"If it be made to appear to a magistrate that there is good ground for believing that any party against whom a complaint has been made under this Ordinance, has absconded or is about to abscond, such magistrate may issue a warrant to apprehend such party and detain him in custody until the hearing of such complaint, unless such party shall give security to the satisfaction of such magistrate for his appearance to answer such complaint."

In the present case there was no "good ground" for believing that the man against whom complaint was made was about to abscond—there was not the slightest reason to fear it for a moment,—and we understand that no warrant was issued for his arrest and detention. He was taken into custody in flagrant disregard of the plain provisions of the statute. This, to begin with, suggests a question of grave principle, and we fancy that most Englishmen who realise the importance of the liberty of the subject, the birth-right of every British subject, will share our uneasiness until some official enquiry results in the admission and censure of the irregularity, or throws upon it some extenuatory light. There was another informality, at the trial, when a person, not the prosecutor, and not a solicitor, was permitted to address the Bench in application for a severe penalty.

As to the trial itself it is impossible to regard it as satisfactory, and we feel sure that had the man's defence been properly put before the magistrate, his Worship would have taken a far more lenient view of the case than he did. The prisoner was, of course, asked to plead whether he was "guilty" or "not guilty"; and he pleaded that he had given twenty days'

notice; but as it was not the full month's notice demanded by the law the plea was taken as one of "guilty" and that ended the prisoner's part in the proceedings. The prosecutor, an Englishman, then told the Court his story in a language very imperfectly understood by the prisoner, and as it does not appear to have been the business of the Court interpreter to tell the prisoner what was being alleged against him by an English witness, there was no cross-examination and no further opportunity for the prisoner to say anything in extenuation of his offence or in mitigation of the penalty. Had he been wealthy enough to have engaged a solicitor to assist him in presenting a defence, the Magistrate's decision would in all probability have been very different from what it was, for, according to the man's own story, which he claims could be supported by evidence, he would seem to have a fairly strong defence, and had it been placed before the Court, we can hardly conceive that the maximum fine of \$50 would have been imposed on a man earning \$22 a month. In default of paying such a (to him) large sum, the defendant who, at the worst, was guilty of only a technical breach of the Ordinance, has to endure for two months the treatment of a real criminal.

It may, of course, be retorted that if injustice has been done a re-hearing would doubtless be allowed. We certainly regarded it as a case for a re-hearing; but of what use is a re-hearing to an uneducated Chinaman, unless he has the assistance of a solicitor? To a man who earns but \$22 a month, the valuable and indispensable assistance of a solicitor is as unattainable as the moon; and so he goes his way, smarting under a penalty which would probably have been reduced to more just proportions had he been able to have his case properly presented. That conclusion is irresistible, and it is one which carries with it the conclusion that a man in the dock is liable to suffer as much for his ignorance and poverty as for his crime. As employers of Chinese labour, we are the least likely to encourage Chinese servants to breaches of an Ordinance designed to protect employers; but no considerations of self-interest can shut our eyes to apparent injustice. This poor Chinaman was informally arrested, in contravention of the Ordinance; and, irrespective of the whole circumstances and merits of his particular case, was punished to the maximum extent "as a warning." We appreciate the value of any suitable case being used as example, but British law is meant to punish delinquents, not to penalise scapegoats.

A COMPLICATED SHIPPING CASE.

(Daily Press 26th June.)

To-day, the Shanghai lawyers are arguing legal points connected with the ownership of the tug-boat *Samson*, which was widely advertised as having been purchased by Mr. BURLING of the *Daily Telegraph* as a despatch boat, and has since been claimed by the agent of the Russian Government. The vessel has changed hands several times, and the litigation is, of course, for its value, put at tael one hundred thousand. The defendant, a Danish subject named M. L. KRISTENSEN, acting as attorney for the nominal owner, re-sold the *Samson* to its original owners, the Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co., and seems to consider that the plaintiff M. PAVLOV, formerly Russian

Minister in Korea, having been acting for the Russian Government, is not an eligible claimant, and asserts that he believed the vessel to belong not to M. PAVLOV, or the Russian Government, but to the nominal and registered owner, "Baron" THOMAS CHARLES ROBERT WARD, a British subject, and (presumably) another agent for the Russian Government. The jury, as our telegram shows, decides that if M. PAVLOV ever owned it, he owned it as agent for the Russian Government, and that "Baron" WARD, although the registered owner, had no right to sell it. Evidently, if the officially recognised owner's authority to sell (by his attorney) is now denied, the case presents curious complications. The name of the overt agent of the Russian Government did not appear, perhaps because his appearance in the transactions was undesirable. If "Baron" WARD was not a Russian agent, why was the vessel registered in his name, and why was Mr. KRISTENSEN's authority not valid? But, argues the defendant, "Baron" WARD did have a "beneficiary interest" in the vessel; and he (defendant) did not know at the time he sold it that M. PAVLOV had any right to forbid it. He, therefore, refuses to deliver up the Tails 80,000 he received from the Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co., Ltd., and denies M. PAVLOV's right to claim. M. PAVLOV maintains, on the other hand, that it was a conspiracy between "Baron" WARD and his attorney, Mr. KRISTENSEN, to cheat the Russian Government of the vessel. It was defendant, KRISTENSEN, who, in October, 1904, under instructions from "Baron" WARD, purchased the steamer "for the purposes of the Russian Government," and he paid Messrs. WHELOCK AND CO. Tls. 105,000 for it, receiving from them afterwards a rebate or commission of Tls. 10,000, which was paid to M. Pavlov, "by whose direction" this "commission" was "arranged." It was "Baron" WARD, however, who paid out Tls. 10,655.84 for account of the *Samson*. In the following month, when the *Edendale* had also been purchased in a similar way, his principal, "Baron" WARD, first told him that he was acting for M. PAVLOV. The *Edendale* not being required, defendant, KRISTENSEN, paid the vendors' brokers' expenses, Tls. 9,600, for which he later received M. PAVLOV's cheque, signed "A. PAVLOV, Minister for Korea in China." M. PAVLOV promised him a large flour contract for Vladivostok to compensate him for his disappointment and losses. He did not get the flour contract. M. PAVLOV still owed him a thousand taels for medical stores purchased on his behalf. It was by "Baron" WARD's instructions that he re-sold the *Samson* in February, 1905, to Messrs. WHELOCK AND CO., for Tls. 57,000, having failed to find a purchaser at Nagasaki and elsewhere; and he deducted what was owing to him (defendant), and paid the balance to "Baron" WARD. "Baron" WARD, and not the defendant, was the proper man to sue, and, as a matter of fact, M. PAVLOV was suing him contemporaneously at the British Court. It is to this suit that our telegram refers, the jury referred to being a British jury. The suit against Mr. KRISTENSEN was entered at the Danish Consular Court. The British jury does not seem to have clarified a knotty case, although we may take it that the decision means that M. PAVLOV was the recognised and supreme agent for Russia in the matter; and that "Baron" WARD will be held accountable to him for the value. It might have been more interesting if the Japanese had seized the vessel!

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

26th June.

A correspondent writes to me that he has many times contemplated sending a few lines of poetry for this column. Tossing a weary head on the pillow in a vain effort to woo Morpheus between mid-night and the wee sma' hours he has been driven by the distracting noises in his neighbourhood to seek relief in attempts to write withering odes to his neighbours within a radius of half a mile. But concentration of thought, he complains, has been as impossible as sleep, and so he confesses that he has been obliged to borrow the following lines as a start:—

There is a youth who keeps a "crumpled horn"
(Living next me, upon the self-same story),
And ever, 'twixt the midnight and the morn
He solaces his soul with Annie Laurie.

The tune is good; the habit pr'aps romantic;
But tending, if pursued, to drive one's neighbours frantic.

And now,—at this unprecedented hour,
When the young Dawn is "trampling out the stars"—

I hear that youth—with more than usual power
And pathos—struggling with the first few bars.
And I do think the amateur cornopean

Should be put down by law—but that's perhaps Utopian!

The correspondent mentions that the scheme of the poem also covered the gramophone, the piano and the pianola, as well as vocal efforts, the howling of dogs and the noises of the poultry yard; and in the belief that it was equally Utopian to put down all these things, he intended, by way of conclusion, to fling this at them:—

Play, play, your sonatas in A
Heedless of what your next neighbour may say?
Sing, play—if your neighbours inveigh
Feebly against you, they're lunatics, eh?
Then, maskee, neigh, bray, simply obey
All your sweet impulses, stop not or stay
Is not your neighbour your natural prey?

But after reading Saturday's paper the correspondent deemed it unnecessary to complete the Ode, the public being duly warned that late dinner parties are a public nuisance and that the perpetrators thereof are liable to be prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the law.

Though the Ordinance under which that prosecution took place is, I imagine, one that was enacted in 1864, bachelors' messes and scores of other households have all these years been giving their dinner parties and singing—or rather "trying to sing"—their national anthems after midnight quite oblivious of the fact that for disturbing the peace and quietude of the neighbourhood at night-time they were rendering themselves liable to fines and imprisonment! In this connection a great deal evidently depends upon one's neighbours. The moral to be drawn by the jovial from the case reported in Saturday's paper, and the other recent case in which a coolie (whom the magistrate evidently mistook for a bloated comprador) was fined \$ 5 for "making a noise" in the vicinity of a district police station, is this:—Don't make your noise too near the sleeping quarters of the police! If you play your sonatas and sing your national anthems anywhere else, you can do it with impunity: it helps to keep the policeman on his beat awake. Many, I know, wish the police were not so confoundedly selfish in this respect—or rather that they were a little more altruistic. But how busy they would be after sunset! Be sure if only they rigorously carried out the Ordinance of 1864. The correspondent who wrote to the *Daily Press* last week about the noises made by the trams would not have had his nerves shattered, and the correspondent I have referred to above would cease to have occasion to wrap a wet towel round his head in the dead of night in order to restore that mental equilibrium which is so necessary to those who are seized with an impulse to write poetry.

Another difficulty seems to have been encountered in connection with the Kowloon-Canton railway project. Had the British and Chinese Corporation been prepared to proceed at once with the construction of the railway when the concession was obtained, the line might have been made with the active

encouragement and support of the Chinese of the district. Now, after six years' delay, when the route is being surveyed with a view to a commencement of the work, the concessionaires are confronted with a Chinese agitation against railway enterprises by foreigners of any nationality, and the negotiations at Peking are in consequence impeded. The British Government is apparently bringing pressure to bear on Peking, and as the Chinese have not the same reason for resisting in this case as in that of the great trunk line between Canton and Hankow it is quite likely that the matter will be amicably arranged. But it is not a happy augury that a large number of influential merchants and gentry of Canton and the cities along the proposed route to Kowloon are urging that the line should be built exclusively with Chinese capital.

It appears from the Blue-Book that advice was sought from the Indian Government, on the proposal of the Botanical and Afforestation Department, to introduce a scheme for felling and re-planting the pine forests of the Colony on the block system with a twenty-five years rotation. This is the system which was introduced at Aberdeen last year. It was, as the Blue Book says, looked upon with ill-favour by the public, and it is interesting now to learn that "the opinion was expressed in well-informed quarters that a longer period of rotation was preferable." There has been time for a report from the Indian Government on the subject and it would be interesting to know the nature of it.

It is officially recognised in the report on the Blue Book on Hongkong for 1904 that "house-rents especially on the higher levels, have advanced to an extent probably unknown in other British Colonies." It seems to me that little or no distinction can be made between the higher and the lower levels in this respect, and Kowloon has shared to the full in this "advancement."

BANYAN.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held at the Council Chamber on the 22nd June. There were present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MATTHEW NATHAN, K.C.M.G.

H. E. MAJOR-GENERAL VILLIERS-HATTON, C.B. (General Officer commanding the Troops).

Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir H. S. BERKELEY, K.C. (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. L. A. M. JOHNSTON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Captain L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Sir C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.

Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART.

Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).

The minutes of the previous meeting, meeting No. 3 of the present year, held on June 1st, were confirmed.

REPORTS.

Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I beg to lay on the table the Report of the Harbour Master for the year 1904, Report on the Blue Book for 1904, Report of the Government Bacteriologist for the year 1904, Report of the Acting Medical Officer of Health on the Epidemic of Plague in the Colony during the year 1904, and the Report of the Director of the Observatory for 1904. I also, by Your Excellency's command, beg to lay on the table Financial Minutes 15 to 18 and move that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

Hon. COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and it was carried.

QUESTION RE VAGRANTS.

Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART—I beg to ask the question standing in my name.

"Will the Government take into consideration the advisability of relaxing the present rule, in regard to vagrants having to wear prison clothes when entering the House of Detention? Could not the application of this regulation be deferred until men have been guilty of a breach of discipline or some other misconduct?"

Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to state that the regulation regarding the dress to be worn by vagrants in the House of Detention is under consideration.

THIRD READING SUGAR AMENDMENT.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL—I beg to move the third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Sugar Convention Ordinance, 1904.

Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and it was carried.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL—I beg to move that the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Sugar Convention Ordinance, 1904, which has been read three times, be now passed.

Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and it was carried.

THIRD READING VAGRANCY AMENDMENT.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL—I beg to move the third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Vagrancy Ordinance, 1897.

Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and it was carried.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL I beg to move that the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Vagrancy Ordinance, 1897, which has been read three times, be now passed.

Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and it was carried.

NEW TERRITORIES LAND BILL.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL—I beg to move that the Council resolve itself into Committee of the whole Council on the Bill entitled An Ordinance to facilitate the transfer of land in the New Territories and for settling disputes in respect thereof and for other purposes.

Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and it was carried.

Amendments, moved by Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL, as follows:—

Sub-Section 4, Section 1, was struck out, and the following substituted:—

"(4.) Upon the application of the registered owner of any land in the New Territories which has been purchased from the Crown since the 17th day of April, 1899, and in respect of which a separate Crown Lease has been or is intended to be issued, the Governor may exempt the said land from the provisions of this Ordinance by a Memorandum under his hand written-in or upon the Crown Lease thereof."

A fresh sub-section, Sub-Section 5, was added to Section 1:—

"(5.) Upon the application of the registered owner of any land in the New Territories not covered by the provisions of the last preceding sub-section, and upon proof to the satisfaction of the Land Officer of the title of such owner, and surrender of such land to the Crown, the Governor may direct a new Crown Lease for such land to be issued after due survey thereof has been made and the prescribed fees paid, and the Governor may thereupon exempt the said land from the provisions of this Ordinance by a Memorandum in writing under his hand written in or upon such new Crown Lease, Provided Always that in any case in which such application refers to land of such small value that, in the opinion of the Governor, it is undesirable to grant exemption the Governor nor may refuse to grant the same."

Section 6, was amended to read as follows:—

"6. The Office shall have power to decide in a summary way all questions and disputes in connection with, or in anywise arising out of, or regarding, any land, and he may within three calendar months from the giving of his decision, re-open and re-hear the case upon such grounds as he shall in his discretion deem sufficient, and reverse, vary or confirm the previous decision or judgment. The Land Officer shall have power to recognise and enforce any Chinese customary right in relation to land, and the decision or judgment of the Land Officer shall be binding on all parties concerned unless and until the same is varied or set aside as hereinafter provided; Provided that the

Land Officer shall not have power to decide any question or dispute to which the Crown is a party unless the Crown consents in writing to his so doing; And further the Land Officer shall not have power to decide any question or dispute in respect of any land having a capital value exceeding \$5,000 or an annual value exceeding \$500 unless with the written consent of the parties to such question or dispute. The figures "\$5,000" and "\$500," respectively being substituted for \$10,000 and \$1,000.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL moved that Section 9 be amended to read as follows:—

"9. Every judgment or order of the Land Officer and every entry thereof in the Land Register shall be conclusive for all purposes; Provided that if any person shall consider himself aggrieved by any such judgment order or entry, and if the Land Officer shall certify that the capital value of the subject in dispute exceeds two thousand dollars, or if a Judge of the Supreme Court shall on good cause shown grant special leave to appeal, such person may within three months from the date of such judgment order or entry move a Judge of the Supreme Court to vary or set aside the same; and it shall thereupon be lawful for such Judge to vary or set aside the said judgment order or entry on such terms as he may think fit.

That was substituting the words *two thousand* for the words *five hundred*, and adding the other words in italics.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—I beg to move that the word or be changed to *and* because or means that if the property be worth only \$100, say, so long as the decision is not satisfactory to a party he can go to the Supreme Court and if a good case is shown get leave to appeal. Otherwise this section will take away the good conferred by this Ordinance, because this Ordinance is for the settlement of disputes relating to land as well as the transfer of land. So if a person who owns a small home worth \$100 gets into dispute with another who has money, if the judgment of the Land Officer is not favourable to the latter he would say "I am dissatisfied with the decision of the Land Officer," and would employ a solicitor to obtain special leave to appeal, and the decision of the Land Officer could always be shifted, because notice to the other side that the party was going to apply for special leave to appeal would be given. Then the small man would have to go to instruct a lawyer to appear for him, and would then be asked to deposit a couple of hundred dollars to cover expenses. So the small holder would be subject to injustice.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL—Leave the word or, or strike out the whole of the added portion. If you strike it out it deprives a man from leave to appeal unless the property is valued at \$2,000.

Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART—May I ask about No. 8?

HIS EXCELLENCY—The object is to prevent small land holders being let in for legal expenses.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—Then it would avoid the object of the Ordinance, which is to save expense in the settlement of disputes over land, and if any man can go to the Supreme Court for special leave to appeal these small holders have to go.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL—I think it is an absolutely wrong principle to compel any man to be contented with a judgment which affects his land. I have had long experience and would not attempt to deprive a man of right to appeal on the ground that lawyers' charges are too heavy, whereas if a man gets unqualified advice it ultimately leads him to the Courts. It does no good to stifle a man's leave to appeal. It is wrong on principle. There may be cases where he ought to be allowed to appeal.

Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY—In the land Ordinance there are precedents for both these clauses. The right for leave to appeal in these clause is for property worth £500. The point is that speculators in land who have money will be able to go to the Supreme Court on appeal, and those who have not money will probably get the worst of legal advice. It is taking away the right to appeal on very small amounts, under \$2,000. I think, myself, there should be no power to appeal except in some cases.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL—That is the stock argument against all appeals which ought to be. It is said that it allows the rich man to oppress the poor man. There may be cases of oppression, but it ought to go to the judge if cause can be shown.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—There is a limit of £50. I wish to say that I advance this argument on principle, not that I suggest any over charging of the practitioners in this Colony. I move that the words be struck out altogether.

HIS EXCELLENCY.—You oppose the amendment.

The amendment was carried.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL moved that Section 10 be amended to read as follows, and that 10a be added:—

"10. Except by way of appeal from the Land Officer, no proceeding relating to land in the New Territories shall be commenced in the Supreme Court of Hongkong, unless the Crown is a party, or unless the Land Officer shall certify that the capital value of the land affected or in dispute exceeds \$5,000 or the annual value thereof exceeds \$500.

"10a. In any proceedings in the Supreme Court in relation to land in the New Territories the Court shall have power to recognise and enforce any Chinese custom or customary right affecting such land."

Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART—How is an English judge to know Chinese law?

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL—It is a matter of fact which will be proved under our own law.

Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART—Our own law is very much disputed, and—

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL—Our own law is based on common sense.

It was subsequently decided to leave the Bill in Committee on this point.

Section 11 was amended to read as follows:—

"11. The Land Officer shall on judgment being given in respect of any land forthwith enter a memorandum of such judgment in the Land Register. No fee shall be payable for such entry.

Section 23 was amended to read as follows:—

"23. In a Conveyance by way of mortgage in Form C in the Schedule hereto there shall be deemed to be included the following further covenants and provisos in addition to the covenants contained in sub-sections (b) and (d) of Section 22 of this Ordinance:—

"(a.) A covenant by the Mortgagor with the Mortgagee that it shall be lawful for the Mortgagee, as from the date of the mortgage, if not receiving any interest on the mortgage money, to enter into possession of the property conveyed and thenceforth to quietly hold, occupy, enjoy and take the same and all benefits and advantages accruing in respect thereof without in any way accounting to any person whatsoever in respect thereof, and without any interruption by any person until the time when such mortgage shall be redeemed.

"(b.) A covenant by the Mortgagor with the Mortgagee that the Mortgagee will on demand refund to the Mortgagor all sums paid by the latter on account of any Crown Rent or taxes payable in respect of the property conveyed during the possession of the Mortgagee, and that the Mortgagee will during such possession indemnify the Mortgagor against the non-performance and non-observance of the covenants and conditions, so far as they relate to the property conveyed, contained in the Crown Lease Licence or Grant under which such property is held.

"(c.) A proviso that on the Mortgagor paying to the Mortgagee the principal money (with-out interest) and all costs lawfully due to the Mortgagee in respect of the mortgage the Mortgagee will at the request and cost of the Mortgagor release the mortgaged property to the Mortgagor as in this Ordinance is provided.

"(d.) A proviso that the Mortgagor shall not be entitled to redeem the mortgage except on giving three months' previous notice in writing to the Mortgagee of his intention so to do.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—The Chinese have no calendar months. It is not the solar months but the lunar months.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The exact months are not the lunar months?

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—No.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Then they are calendar months.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL—Why we should use the Chinese system I do not know.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The law will be used mainly by persons who use Chinese months. Other properties would be presumably under another sub-section.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—All the banks use Chinese calendars, and all houses let to Chinese are on the Chinese calendars.

Hon. Sir PAUL CHATER—Chinese to Chinese

Hon. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Would it not be better to put it in days; 90 days or 100 days.

It was subsequently decided to leave out the words "Chinese Calendar" wherever they occurred in the Ordinance.

Section 42 was amended to read as follows:—

"42. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be deemed to affect the interests of the Crown, or to confer a larger right in relation to any land than is granted in the Crown Lease, Grant or Licence whereunder the said Land is held; and no liability shall attach to the Land Officer, or to any Assistant Land Officer or to the Government of the Colony, or to the Crown, in respect of any act done, or entry made by such Land Officer or Assistant Land Officer in the course of his duty."

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

There was afterwards a meeting of the Finance Committee, the Hon. Colonial Secretary presiding. The following votes were made:—

Financial Minute—No. 15. The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in aid of the vote Public Works Annually Recurrent, for Maintenance of Public Cemetery.

Financial Minute—No. 16. The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of three thousand dollars and sixty cents (\$3,000.60) in aid of the vote Sanitary Department, Other Charges, for Cemetery Incidental Expenses.

Excavations had to be made to make room for further burials.

Financial Minute—No. 17. The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of ten thousand four hundred and twenty dollars (\$10,420) in aid of the vote, Public Works Extraordinary, for the following items:—

RAIN-STORM DAMAGES.	
Roads inside Victoria.—Removing slips, re-instating road surfaces, &c.	\$2,050
Roads outside Victoria.—Removing slips, re-instating road surfaces, &c.	4,960
Roads in Kowloon.—Removing slips, re-instating road surfaces, &c.	1,200
Roads in New Territory.—Removing slips, re-instating Sai Kung, Tai Po, etc.,	800
Praya Wall and Piers.—Repairs to wall, Causeway Bay	100
Colonial Cemetery.—Re-building portion of boundary wall and repairing earth slips and damage to walls	960
Repairs to Nullahs	350

Total ... \$10,420

Financial Minute—No. 18. The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) in aid of the vote 22.—Miscellaneous Services, for the following items:—

Coals for Offices	\$ 2,000
Other Miscellaneous Services	10,000

Total ... \$12,000

The second vote was in connection with extra legal assistance respecting a land appeal case.

There is talk of the Philippines Constabulary as an institution bringing charges of libel against the native papers. "We believe," says the *Democracia*, "that it will be very difficult for General Allen to prove that 95 per cent. of the charges are calumnies. On the contrary, it may be presumed that 99 per cent. of the accusations are true. And it must be remembered that not all the things which occur in the provinces become known here, and even, if they become known here no mention is made of them in the papers, because newspaper men have but one hand with which to write their articles."

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 16th June.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. F. T. PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP.

Lam Tung, plaintiff; F. J. Badeley (Captain Superintendent of Police), defendant; and the Nam Loong firm, of Saigon, claimants. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Dixon (Mr. John Hasting's office), appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. H. N. Ferrers, instructed by Mr. J. Hays (Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master), for the claimants.

The issue to be tried was as follows:—

"Whether either of them, the said Lam Tung and the Nam Loong firm, and if so, which is or are entitled to a sum of \$2,600 obtained by the defendant, F. J. Badeley, from the plaintiff's agent Chow Kwan and deposited by the said F. J. Badeley in Court, and being moneys the subject matter of this action."

Mr. Pollock in opening said that the action was commenced in November last year by the plaintiff against the Captain Superintendent of Police, the plaintiff seeking to recover \$2,600 in \$100 bank notes, money found on the person of Chow Kwan whose extradition was applied for in August, 1904, on the ground that he had stolen money from the Nam Loong firm of Saigon, now also claimants of the money on the ground that it was part of the property stolen from them by the said Chow Kwan. The plaintiff, however, did not admit that any part belonged to the Nam Loong firm, but contend that it belongs to the plaintiff acting as a bailee for various parties who entrusted sums with him at Saigon to be delivered to persons in Hongkong or China. The plaintiff had for some years been travelling to and fro between Hongkong and Saigon and trading with them. Prior to last year he had been entrusted by the same people hereinafter mentioned to take money from Saigon to China for them. The plaintiff, in short, is a travelling trader and cook. On the particular voyage he was employed on the s.s. *Kinshan* as cook for the firemen. Prior to embarking at Saigon on 20th August, 1904, he had various sums of money entrusted to him to be dealt with as follows:—\$1,500 handed by Kong Sung to be delivered to Kong Sung's mother, Tsang Shi, at Tai Po Chung; \$500 handed by Tsang Sing Cheong, of Saigon, to be taken to San Kin and handed to Tsang Kan; \$300 handed by Lan Tsoi to be taken to Lan Tsoi's mother, Man Shi; \$280 handed by Lam On to be delivered in Hongkong to a certain party in Lam Kwai Fong (d'Aguilar Street) to be forwarded to Lam On's elder brother, Lam Cho; and \$20 sent by Kwong Fu of the Kwong Mai Wo shop, at Saigon, for delivery to the Wo Cheong Loong firm.

The *Kinshan*, continued Mr. Pollock, left Saigon on the 20th August, 1904, for Hongkong with the plaintiff aboard as cook as mentioned. On board the *Kinshan* the plaintiff met Chow Kwan, subsequently arrested, who was a passenger, and a man whom he had known for some years. Plaintiff allowed this man to occupy his own bunk in the store room. The *Kinshan* on the 23rd August encountered a typhoon. Deck cargo had to be jettisoned and one or two passengers were washed overboard. The bad weather continued till quite near Hongkong. The plaintiff as might be imagined had a rough time in the galley with his pots and pans rolling on top of him, and so he asked Chow Kwan to look after the packet containing the \$2,600, telling him to tie it about his body; simply informing him that the red handkerchief, for it was such, contained the money. On arriving in Hongkong the plaintiff and Chow Kwan went ashore together. They then parted arranging to meet again a little later, Chow Kwan going to a boarding house where they had both arranged to live, and the plaintiff to a tea house. Chow Kwan was then arrested. The extradition proceedings, after lasting for three months, were discontinued, and the plaintiff thereupon brought an action against the Captain Superintendent of Police for the recovery of his dollars. The plaintiff,

on first learning of the arrest of Chow Kwan, went to the Police Station where he was also arrested, photographed, and later released. He subsequently gave evidence during the extradition proceedings.

Evidence was led, and the case was adjourned.

Monday, 19th June.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. F. T. PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

NO INDICTMENT.

In the case of Rex v. She Tak Tsoi, who was committed by the Magistrate on a charge of perjury, the Attorney General entered a *nolle prosequi*.

DEMANDING MONEY WITH MENACES.

Lai Po and Ng Ngan were charged with demanding money with menaces. The Attorney General (Sir H. S. Berkeley), instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrell (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley), prosecuted. The prisoners pleaded not guilty and the following jury was impanelled:—Messrs. J. Johnstone (foreman), B. Engel, J. Hooper, F. Nicolai, P. K. Knyvett, I. Ellis and W. Anderson.

The story as outlined by the Attorney General was as follows:—On the 8th March of the present year the two prisoners and another man not in custody went in a boat from Tai-o to a place in Lantau Island named Shan Shek Wan. Two native houses stood near the sea shore and to one of these they went. An old man, the occupant, came to the door. First of all he was reprimanded for not being a member of the Triad Society, and then one of the three men, the man not in custody who acted as spokesman all through, demanded \$10 to pay for their journey to Hongkong. At the same time the old man was told that if he did not give the money the brethren of the Triad Society would do something to him. Under these circumstances he handed over \$4.90.

On the other hand the prisoners alleged that this old man had stolen some fowl, salt fish and oil from one of them, and they simply went to demand payment.

In summing up, after the hearing of the evidence, His Lordship said that, as the men admitted that they were "there" and that money passed, the question devolved itself into "what were they doing there and why money passed?"

The jury were divided, first of all finding the prisoners guilty by four to three, and as five to two would be necessary to convict they were invited to retire and come to a definite verdict. This they did and the prisoners were found guilty by six to one.

As the second prisoner had to also answer a charge of robbery, sentence was deferred.

GANG ROBBERY.

Yeung In, Tseung Tak, Lam Leung and Leung Sai were charged with gang robbery. The Attorney General, instructed by Mr. Morrell, prosecuted. The prisoners pleaded not guilty and the following jury was impanelled:—Messrs. A. Moir (foreman), A. E. de S. Alves, E. A. Schröder, L. M. J. Alvares, N. H. Rutherford, and W. S. Bassford.

This robbery took place on the 5th May of the present year, at 10 a.m. at 20, Water Street, the victim being a Chinese lady married to a Mr. Barros. On the previous morning after the husband had gone to work a man, the first defendant, knocked at the door and said he had been sent by the Government (Sanitary Board) to open up a skylight. He took various measurements and next day came again accompanied by three other men. First of all they, in accordance with their game, shifted various articles of furniture and then suddenly the first defendant caught hold of Mrs. Barros by the wrist while another ruffian divested her of her jewels. There was a little girl in the house and to frighten her so that she might keep quiet one of the men rubbed pepper in her mouth. There was a little adopted boy, however, who got out and raised an alarm. The first prisoner was arrested by a Sanitary Inspector at the door, so there was no doubt about him, but the others were subsequently arrested.

The prisoners were convicted and each sentenced to one year's imprisonment.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

Tuesday, 20th June.

BEFORE MR. F. T. PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

GANG ROBBERIES.

The deferred judgment in the case of Lai Po and Ng Ngau, who were charged with demanding money with menaces as reported in our last issue was delivered. They were each sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Ho Man and Ng Ngau were charged with assaulting Wong Kiu, and robbing him of money and clothing to the value of \$80 at Shanshekwan on the 12th March. Sir H. S. Berkeley, Attorney General, instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrell (of the Crown Solicitor's Office) prosecuted. Prisoners, who were undefended, pleaded not guilty, and the following jury was impanelled:—W. A. Koehler, W. E. Craig, G. Blood, J. Arnold, I. S. Perry, S. A. Seth and F. Kohrs.

The Attorney-General—The facts in this case are that the complainant, Wong Kiu, was in his house asleep on the night of the 12th March when he was awakened by the noise of his door being broken open. As it gave way, he saw two men enter. Others were standing outside. When complainant saw the men entering he jumped up and armed himself with a spear, with which he attempted to defend himself. The spear was wrested from him, and he was seriously wounded. The difficulty in this case is the lack of evidence of identification against the prisoners, who were masked at the time of the robbery.

The jury found the prisoners guilty, and His Lordship sentenced the first to one year's imprisonment with hard labour and the second to three years' penal servitude with hard labour.

ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT AND LARCENY.

Tang Fuk was charged with the embezzlement of \$50 at the Magistracy on the 4th April, also with stealing, taking or carrying the same away. The Attorney General prosecuted, and Mr. H. N. Ferrers, instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) defended. Prisoner pleaded not guilty on both counts, and the following jury was impanelled:—F. Nicholai, A. Moir, E. A. Schroeder, P. C. Knyvett, W. F. Banford, A. L. Alves and J. Hooper.

The Attorney General—The charge is that the prisoner, then being third clerk at the Magistracy, received payment of a fine which had been inflicted on a Chinese, and that instead of paying it into the public revenue or handing it over to the proper officer, he put it into his pocket and kept it.

After hearing the evidence, the jury were unanimous in their verdict of "not guilty," and the prisoner was discharged.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

TSE TAN SHUN TONG V. CHAN SHING YU.

This was a claim for \$1,000 being part of a loan of \$1,548 made to defendant on the 8th March last.

Mr. R. A. Harding appeared for the plaintiff. The defendant, who was absent, was not represented.

Mr. Harding stated that the defendant promised to pay the amount, but had failed to keep his promise.

His Honour gave judgment for the amount claimed with costs.

Friday, 23rd June.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. F. T. PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP.

The hearing of the following issue, which first came before the Chief Justice on the 16th instant, was continued:—

"Whether either of them, the said Lam Tung and the Nam Loong firm, and if so, which is or are entitled to a sum of \$2,600 obtained by the

defendant, F. J. Badeley, from the plaintiff's agent Chow Kwan and deposited by the said F. J. Badeley in Court, and being moneys the subject matter of this action."

The parties in the case were as follows:—

Lam Tung, plaintiff; F. J. Badeley (Captain Superintendent of Police), defendant; and the Nam Loong firm, of Saigon, claimants. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Dixon (Mr. John Hasting's office), appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. H. N. Ferrers, instructed by Mr. J. Hay (Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master), for the claimants.

Mr. Pollock having closed the case for the plaintiff, Mr. Ferrers, previous to calling witnesses on behalf of the claimants, addressed the Court. His line of argument was that the plaintiff's story, on the face of it, was very improbable. The latter, described as a travelling trader and cook, had met Chow Kwan, the man who was arrested at Hongkong on the ground that he had taken moneys from Saigon the property of the claimants (Nam Loong firm), on board the s.s. *Kinshan*, where he shared the plaintiff's bunk. A document, copy of a judgment of the Court of Indo-China, was produced to prove the guilt of Chow Kwan. To meet the plaintiff's statement that he, Lam Tung, had asked Chow Kwan, during rough weather at sea, to look after a packet of \$2,600 which had been intrusted to the plaintiff as a bailee, money found on Chow Kwan when he was arrested at Hongkong, Mr. Ferrers suggested that this story was invented primarily to obtain the release of Chow Kwan by his friend Lam Tung, and, being successful in this, they were now endeavouring to obtain the money.

The case was adjourned, it now remaining for Mr. Ferrers to close his case for the claimants, and Mr. Pollock, in conclusion, to again address the Court for the plaintiff.

Saturday, 24th June.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. F. T. PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP.

The hearing of the issue reported on Saturday was concluded. His Lordship said he, as a jurymen, would much rather not have to decide the issue, which to him appeared a very difficult question. If by mutual consent of the parties, however, he communicated with the French authorities at Saigon to obtain answers to certain questions, to find out whether there were really the persons there represented in the letters produced by Lam Tung, the plaintiff, there would be no difficulty in arriving at a correct decision, for the answers would be conclusive. At the same time if either party objected he would give judgment without prejudice on the facts before the Court.

Mr. H. N. Ferrers, appearing for the Nam Loong firm, the claimants, consented, but Mr. H. E. Pollock, K. C., appearing for Lam Tung, the plaintiff, objected on the grounds that the Nam Loong firm held a very strong position in Saigon.

Judgment was reserved.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE MR. F. T. PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

RE LAI YIN OF THE CHING HOP FIRM.

Mr. P. W. Goldring applied for the release of Lai Yin, a partner in the Ching Hop firm, in bankruptcy. Mr. F. B. L. Bowley opposed the application.

After hearing argument on both sides His Lordship summed up as follows:—Application was made to me late on the evening of the 15th, immediately after the filing of this petition, for the arrest of both partners. The statement made, and the statement on which I naturally acted, was that on or about the 8th June the Ching Hop firm informed their creditors that they were unable to pay their debts in full. On the following day the business was closed and the partners of the firm have since been in hiding. There was then a general statement, without any special reference to the facts, that the two partners were in hiding in Hongkong and about to abscond. It appears quite clear from the affidavits that between the 8th, 9th,

10th and 12th of June the persons who made the declaration were in intercourse with one of the debtors. Therefore, it is clear that the statement about their being in hiding and going to abscond was absolutely misleading and should never have been made. The only ground which is now alleged in justification of that statement is that "we believe that unless the said Lai Wing Cho is arrested he will abscond as his partner appears to have done." That is the only excuse which is made for the statement which is manifestly inaccurate. If it had not been for what Mr. Bowley has said, that these declarations were made with full cognizance of the principals, I should have probably ordered the arrest of these four men for perjury. I realise entirely the difficulty which everybody in this Colony who is conducting trade with Chinese experience in matters of this sort by debtors absconding at different stages of the bankruptcy proceedings on account of the proximity of Canton to Hongkong, and I am doing all I can to facilitate proceedings in a legitimate way, but I cannot sanction the illegitimate use of the proceedings of the Court. The law requires that a distinct statement should be made, and grounds furnished, before the arrest of a debtor is ordered, showing that he is about to abscond. That is a perfectly legitimate provision of the bankruptcy law; it is a very stringent provision, but it is a very necessary one. There is no suggestion whatever that this man was going to abscond. On the contrary, on the affidavits before me, up to the 12th he seems to have done what he could to meet his creditors. As to whether he has met them in a proper way is quite another matter. That matter will be discussed hereafter. He may have been endeavouring to promote the interests of one set of creditors rather than another. But that does not affect, in any way, the application for the prisoner's release. The only case is one of mere presumption, and this man must be immediately discharged, with all the costs incurred up to the present time. In future, I cannot accept affidavits merely made by compradores in this matter. There must be some statement that the declarations or affidavits are made with the authority of their principals. It may be that the principals would not be able to say that they, themselves, believe that the debtor is about to abscond; but the Court must have some warrant for believing the statements of the compradores, and that can best be achieved by a statement that the principals themselves believe the statements of their compradores and believe that the application should be made. Mr. Bowley has made special application that the debtor should not be discharged without security. I cannot grant that application. It is perfectly true that discharge from arrest may not be usually ordered without security, but that is where the grounds of the original arrest were proper. In this case they were absolutely improper.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.

It is reported that a certain foreign merchant has purchased a large site, measuring over one hundred mau, in Hong Lok village, in Honan, Canton, for the purpose of constructing godowns and houses of foreign style. Recently a large matched has been built there, and building materials are being daily conveyed thither. It is also said that a stream will be opened down to the river for the navigation of small boats to carry goods to and fro.

THE CANTON-HANKOW DREAM-RAILWAY.

With reference to the question of regaining the rights and privilege of the construction of the Canton and Hankow railway, telegram after telegram has been sent by the gentry and merchants of the provinces of Kwangtung, Hupeh, and Hunan to the Peking Government asking the latter to exert their utmost to effect the cancellation of the concession. An Imperial edict has been issued ordering Viceroy Chang-Chih-tung to consult with the Chinese Minister in Washington to make all arrangements with the American syndicate. It is now reported that the Chinese Minister in Washington has lately sent a private telegram to Viceroy

Chang-Chih-tung saying that the question is hopeful; but it is required to prepare a sum of seven million taels which are to be delivered within three months. Viceroy Chang-Chih-tung has accordingly notified the gentry and merchants of Kwangtung, Hupeh and Hunan to get ready the sums of three million taels, two million taels and two million taels respectively.

CLEANING CANTON!

The new provincial judge is very anxious to put the city in a sanitary condition. As soon as he had arrived from Shanghai, he ordered the local magistrates to devise sanitary measures so as to clean the streets and clear the drains, etc. The magistrates are now busily engaged to raise necessary funds. They summoned the other day all the Tipu, or superintendents of streets, before them to ascertain what funds can be raised to carry on the sanitary measures. The judge has also proposed to elect a market inside the city. One of the deputy officers has proposed to him to convert two large houses which are at present rented at the rate of ten taels a month each. He says that if the landlords of the two houses are ordered to convert them into a market, they will readily accept the proposal, for they will get much higher rent by renting the stalls.

ANOTHER CHINESE LAUNCH DISASTER.

It is reported that a junk which carried passengers to one of the steamers for Hongkong capsized in Pakai, near Kongmoon, the junk being overcrowded. Over a hundred passengers and the crew were thrown into the water. The people of the custom house, the steamers and the neighbouring boats rendered assistance and saved all of them with the exception of about fifteen who were drowned.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TRAM NOISES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—A few days ago, a coolie at Kowloon was fined for using a squeaking wheel barrow. With the disgraceful nuisance of the Low Level Tramway squeaking—scrunching and squeaking round the curve at the City Hall—which has been allowed to go on, a more or less unabated nuisance, ever since the tramway commenced running, is not this a good illustration of "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel?" It was bad enough in the winter for those who sleep anywhere within half a mile of the City Hall, but in the summer with all one's windows open it is infinitely worse, and the squeaking row, at intervals of about five minutes, is not only more than sufficient to prevent any sleep until after the cars cease running, at about 12 o'clock, but is almost sufficient to drive any one not blessed with the strongest nerves, into a lunatic asylum. It is not as though there was no remedy for the nuisance: there is a remedy, or at any rate a partial one—in the shape of keeping the rails at the curves constantly wet, but although the company commenced to do this in response to several private complaints about the noise, they have now ceased to, or at any rate only do it in the most perfunctory manner. I understand that greasing the rails, which would appear to be the most simple remedy, is not possible, inasmuch as the grease getting in the brakes prevents them from acting on the slopes; but surely the tramway company might have sufficient consideration for the nerves of the unfortunate inhabitants who have to live in the low level, within half a mile of the City Hall, to do all in their power to abate such a nuisance. I have been hoping for months that such a thing would not be allowed to go on indefinitely; that there must be some Government authority, who, in the interest of the community, would take notice of and stop it; but as this does not appear to be the case I am driven to appeal to you to bring the matter before the public in the hope that something may be done to abate such an intolerable nuisance. Trusting that you will favour me by inserting this letter in your next issue, and enclosing my card.—Yours faithfully, H.K. CLUB ANNEXE.

COMPANIES.

HONGKONG HIGH LEVEL TRAMWAYS CO., LD.

An extraordinary general meeting of this company was held at the registered office, Alexandra Buildings, on the 20th June, when there were present Mr. H. Humphreys (chairman, Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson and Mr. J. Orange (consulting committee), Messrs J. A. Jupp, G. C. Moxon, G. H. Potts, G. Murray Bain, H. B. White, P. C. Potts, Ho Fook, D. E. Clark, A. Cameron, Lau Chu Pak, D. E. Brown, J. E. Joseph, J. L. Cottlar, T. F. Hough, T. Arnold, E. Bowdler, W. Cruikshank, J. M. Wong, J. Johnson, P. S. Jameson, Sin Tak Fan, A. Morfui, E. A. Ram, H. J. Gedge, C. B. Buyers, J. A. Tarrant, T. S. Forrest and Captain Goddard.

Mr. JUPP having read the notice convening the meeting:

The CHAIRMAN said—This meeting is called to confirm the resolutions passed at the extraordinary general meeting held on the 3rd instant. Before putting these resolutions to the meeting for confirmation, I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

Mr. BROWN—Before the resolutions are put to the meeting, I would like to make a few remarks, to be followed by a few questions which I would like the general managers to answer. Since the first meeting on the 3rd instant a number of letters, including two from myself and one in reply to my first from the general managers, have appeared in the public press. These letters speak for themselves, and although the general managers, in their reply, attempted to prove me wrong, they utterly failed to do so in a single instance in connection with any statement I made. They tried to justify their advocacy of the present scheme, by simply accusing me of "inaccuracy based upon insufficient knowledge," by questioning my right to protect my own interests as a shareholder in the present company for the reason that I am not as old a shareholder as some who are going to benefit financially much more than others in what is termed a reconstruction of the company, but which I call, and have called from the beginning an unwarranted and unjustified sacrifice of one of the best paying properties in the Colony, at about half its value, to a syndicate or company of outsiders whose money is not at all likely to be put into the construction of an opposition line, unless they can buy us out at a price that will not only enable them to paint up their prospectus, but will be the one factor in enabling them to promise investors any return on their money before three years at least. Does it look reasonable to you, gentlemen, that \$250,000 is all that our present tramway line is worth as a going concern, earning as it has in the past net profits of over 40 per cent. and capable, as it certainly will be, of earning in the next three years further net profits of \$50,000 per year on a capital of only \$150,000? It is to my mind, gentlemen, a much better asset at \$500,000 than investors will find the new line which is going to cost that much to build. The general managers are using every effort, for reasons best known to themselves, to make it appear that the contemplated opposition of the projected new line warrants a dissolution of the company and this sacrifice sale. Here I join issue with them and can only say that it is probably a good thing that a bit of new blood has become interested in the old company, when what is claimed to be 75 per cent. of the old blood is willing to desert the ship, and hand it over practically as salvage to a new concern who for the next three years can only threaten, and who will never be able to injure us as much as this sacrifice scheme, which is characterised in some quarters in language not at all complimentary to the promoters. I use the word "promoters" as I understand the new company is not yet formed. I also understand (though the general managers have not up to the present volunteered any details to shareholders) that the purchaser (when the purchase is put through) of the "Findlay Smith Concession" is not the present Tramway Company, neither were they the negotiators, as intimated by the general managers when replying to a question asked by Mr. Moir at the

last meeting, but a firm or company styled the "China Commercial Company," who I understand have undertaken to underwrite the new company for its promoters, who in turn are depending on buying off the old company at their own price—a price for many reasons much more advantageous to them than to us. If I am considered wrong in this, and wrong in my estimate of the old company's ability to continue to stand alone, let the shareholders who think otherwise and are advocating this scheme put their shares on the market at \$200 per share (the price they want to force the minority to accept) and see how soon they will be snapped up by the public and how soon the price will return to its legitimate market value of \$300 or over per share the moment it becomes known that this scheme to curb its earning power has been knocked on the head. The foregoing, gentlemen, are my reasons for opposing the scheme, and I still contend that Resolution No. 1, even if declared carried, does not constitute a voluntary dissolution and winding up of the old company until the assent of every shareholder has been obtained and although we may again be out-voted to-day, I am glad to have received so many assurances from the public as to the justness and reasonableness of my claim, and good wishes for success in my efforts. In conclusions, in case I may be wrong in detail in some of my foregoing remarks, I should like the general managers to put me right by answering the following questions:—

Who comprises the syndicate promoting the new company?

The CHAIRMAN—There is no syndicate. The new company has yet to be formed.

Mr. BROWN—I know that. But who comprises the present syndicate promoting the new company?

The CHAIRMAN—There is no syndicate.

Mr. BROWN—Who are the gentlemen moving in this? Who are the syndicate promoting the new company?

The CHAIRMAN—The new company has not yet been formed.

Mr. BROWN—I know that. But that is not an answer to my question.

The CHAIRMAN—If there is no syndicate there cannot be any gentlemen promoting it.

Mr. BROWN—Do you consider that an answer to my question?

The CHAIRMAN—I do.

Mr. BROWN—Nobody is moving in the matter?

The CHAIRMAN—I am moving in the matter. The consulting committee is interested in the new company and the majority of the members of it will be on the consulting committee of the new company.

Mr. BROWN—Are they the syndicate or promoters?

The CHAIRMAN—There is no syndicate and no promoters at present.

Mr. BROWN—There must be, or your scheme could not be so far advanced as to bring it before a meeting of this company. Who are the gentlemen who comprise the syndicate who are promoting the new company, and the purchase of the old company for \$250,000, and who purchased Mr. Findlay Smith's concession?

The CHAIRMAN—The general managers, the consulting committee and the shareholders who are in favour of the resolutions.

Mr. BROWN—Then there is a syndicate promoting the movement in favour of the new company. Do I understand that?

The CHAIRMAN—There is no syndicate.

Mr. BROWN—Well, a body of gentlemen.

The CHAIRMAN—I consider I have answered your question, Mr. Brown.

Mr. BROWN—Who carried on the negotiations with Mr. Findlay Smith (or his agent), and who appears as the purchaser of his concession?

The CHAIRMAN—Mr. Kadoorie, acting as broker for the old company and also the new.

Mr. BROWN—Is the syndicate, or the body of gentlemen, confined at present to the gentlemen named in the press about a month ago as the probable future consulting committee and general managers? Are these the gentlemen who are promoters of the new company?

The CHAIRMAN—There can be no promoters until the thing is promoted.

Mr. BROWN—Yes, there can. I simply ask are those the gentlemen who are promoting this scheme, or interested in it?

The CHAIRMAN—I think that question has already been answered by the answer to a previous question.

Mr. BROWN—I think it has not, sir. Will you please answer this question? Are those the gentlemen? I can name them. The article states that the new company will be under the management of John D. Humphreys and Sons, with a consulting committee consisting of Sir C. P. Chater, Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson, Mr. C. Ewens and Mr. A. J. Raymond. Are those the gentlemen who are the promoters of this scheme?

The CHAIRMAN—Some are, and some are not.

Mr. BROWN—Who are not?

The CHAIRMAN—Mr. Raymond is an additional member of the consulting committee, and also Sir Paul Chater.

Mr. BROWN—He is not one of the gentlemen at present interested in the formation of the new scheme and the formation of the new company?

The CHAIRMAN—Interested to the extent of that paragraph.

Mr. BROWN—Are there any other gentlemen connected with it outside the old company?

The CHAIRMAN—Not any more than may take shares in the new company.

Mr. BROWN—I am not talking about probable investors, but about people interested with you in the present promotion of the new scheme. Who are the other gentlemen?

The CHAIRMAN—All the shareholders who pass these resolutions; that is all.

Mr. BROWN—Are there any more?

The CHAIRMAN—No more.

Mr. BROWN—What connection (if any) have Messrs. Benjamin, Kelly and Potts with the scheme, and how much are they, or the China Commercial Company, to receive for underwriting it?

The CHAIRMAN—Messrs. Benjamin, Kelly and Potts are acting as brokers, and there is no underwriting. Mr. Kadoorie was employed as broker to obtain the concession, and for that he will be paid \$10,000. There will be no other money paid whatsoever except the \$25,000 to Mr. Findlay Smith.

Mr. BROWN—Where is the money to come from to pay Mr. Kadoorie for underwriting the scheme?

The CHAIRMAN—There is no question of underwriting it.

Mr. BROWN—Then floating it.

The CHAIRMAN—There is no question of floating it either.

Mr. BROWN—There must be.

The CHAIRMAN—He has bought for us a concession we instructed him to buy.

Mr. BROWN—Not as a company. You cannot act as a company until you dissolve and commence as a new concern.—There is a syndicate, or a company of promoters.

The CHAIRMAN—We have power under the articles to promote a new company.

Mr. BROWN—You claim you have power to become part of a promoting syndicate to dispose of the old company by a new charter, and form a new company.

The CHAIRMAN—Exactly.

Mr. BROWN—Exactly. All right.

The CHAIRMAN—There being no other questions, I beg to move that the following resolution be confirmed:—"That it is desirable that the company may be dissolved and that it be wound up voluntarily."

Mr. ARNOLD seconded, and the motion was carried.

The second resolution, which read:—"That the General Managers be and they are hereby appointed liquidators," was confirmed on the motion of Mr. G. M. BAIN, seconded by Mr. HO FOOK.

Mr. WHITE moved the confirmation of the third resolution reading "That the liquidators be and they are hereby authorised to consent to the registration of a new company to be named the 'Peak Tramways Company, Ltd.' with a memorandum and articles of association which have been prepared with the approval of the consulting committee of the company."

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. G. H. POTTS moved that resolution four be confirmed. It read "That the liquidators be empowered to sell to the Peak Tramways

Company, Limited, the undertaking of this company at the price of \$200 per share either in cash or shares of the Peak Tramways Company, Ltd., at the option of shareholders of this company and to enter into all necessary agreements to that effect."

Mr. TARRANT seconded the motion, which was carried.

There were three shareholders who voted against the confirmation of each of the resolutions.

CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, LIMITED.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the China Light and Power Company was held at the offices of the general managers, Messrs. Shewan Tomes and Co., on the 21st June. There were present Hon. Mr. R. Shewan (chairman), Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Dr. J. W. Noble and Mr. H. P. White (consulting committee), Mr. R. Henderson (secretary), Messrs. A. A. Cordeiro, W. R. Robertson, and Marston.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for some time past we will, with your permission, follow the usual course and take them as read.

Comparing this year's figures with those for last year you will see that the result is a profit at Kowloon of \$6,043.31 for 12 months as against \$3,676.55 for 7 months, and at Canton of \$47,712.08 for 12 months as against \$9,543.81 for 7 months last year which is a very marked improvement.

Kowloon develops slowly, but it does develop and will go on developing, and the figures though small show a steady and encouraging increase every month. For instance, our profit on working over there was nothing at all in April, May and June, but in July it had risen to \$300, and in February to \$1,000, so you see we have the prospect of much better earnings in Kowloon this present year.

But in Canton business is on a much larger scale. We have there a large and wealthy city and our resources have been strained to the utmost to keep pace with the demand which has risen for electric lighting. Our manager, Mr. Marston, and his assistants have had to overcome many unforeseen obstacles in their work, not to mention the tax on their strength in having only raw untrained native labour to rely upon, and deserve great credit for the way in which they have met all demands on them in a year of unusual pressure. They have been constantly engaged in laying new lines in various directions through the city, and in attending to a steady demand for new installations, in addition to which their time has been greatly taken up with extensions and additions to the company's plant which the increasing demand has rendered necessary. Protracted negotiations with the Bunding Commissioners have at last been brought to a close for the extension of our property, which will now be on the new Bund and will give us more room which is badly wanted.

The last addition consisting of a third Babcock and Wilcox boiler is now working at full power and to keep up with the growing business another engine alternator set was also ordered from home. This has just arrived and is now being set up and we are already considering the necessity of immediately ordering still further additional plant.

After much negotiation the Chinese officials at Canton have modified our previous concession or rather, I should say, have given us a fresh concession on terms which are undoubtedly more favourable to them but which will enable us to continue extending in every direction, and which will also secure us the lighting of the yamens of H.E. the Viceroy, the Tartar General, the Governor of Canton, and other official residences. You will thus perceive that we have a large work before us at Canton and that there is every indication of our being busily employed for a long time to come in further extensions before the supply overtakes the demand. As some indication of how our business has increased at Canton I may tell you that whereas our profit there in January, 1904, was \$1,200, it was over \$5,000 in January, 1905, and had risen to over \$6,000 in February, the last month in our financial year and is still increasing every month.

There is, therefore, little room left for doubt as to our future prospects or as to what the company can do, but the means to do it are radically deficient.

To keep itself going the company has had to borrow right and left and naturally has had to pay dearly for its loans. You have only to look at the profit and loss account to see what a hole in our profits interest to the bank and other creditors makes. To pay off its loans and overdrafts requires 2 to 3 lacs, so to put the company on its feet we propose to raise \$200,000 more capital, and an extraordinary meeting will be held after this meeting is over to give the company power to obtain this additional capital. The new shares will, of course, be offered to shareholders in proportion to their holding, and failing their acceptance will be disposed by the general managers in the best way they can. If there are any questions I shall be pleased to answer them before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts.

There were none and the chairman put the proposition to the meeting.

Mr. H. P. WHITE seconded and it was carried.

Mr. FUNG WACHUN proposed the re-election of the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, Dr. J. W. Noble and Mr. H. P. White on the consulting committee.

Mr. A. A. CORDEIRO seconded and it was carried.

Dr. NOBLE proposed the re-election of Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. GOURDIN as auditors.

Mr. MARSTON seconded and it was carried.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING.

An extraordinary general meeting of the company was then held.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the following resolution be passed, on the condition that should the resolution be passed by the required majority it will be submitted for confirmation as a special resolution to a second extraordinary meeting, which will be subsequently convened, and in the event of it being confirmed the shares will be offered to shareholders on the register on the eighth day of July, in proportion to their then holdings, and all shares not applied for by shareholders will be disposed of by the general managers in accordance with article 8, paragraph 2, of the company's articles of association.

Resolution:—"That the capital of the company be increased to \$500,000 by the creation of 20,000 new shares of \$10 each."

Hon. Sir PAUL CHATER seconded and it was carried.

There was no further business.

THE NEW WEIHAIWEI GOLD MINING CO., LTD.

We notice that the reconstructed Company held its first statutory meeting on June 13th, at Shanghai. The large liability of the old Company had been paid off. Unable to sell their concentrates, they were setting up a small cyanide plant of their own. Once more prospects were described as "distinctly good," although deductions were based on "meagre facts." A very rich ore block had been struck, but it was impossible to dig it out at present. The best yield was seven pennyweights a ton. "The further they developed, the more hope there was." The engineer said they could "almost certainly count on sufficient ore to pay expenses." The Chairman, more optimistic, talked of "soon paying dividends." We would be pleased to see our forecast proved wrong; but in the meantime we retain our poor opinion of the prospects of gold mining in these abandoned workings.

Before Taishima Day, the *Chafoo Daily News* had the following elegant comment:—"The best way to circumvent the Baltic fleet is to destroy it. But the World has waited in vain for action of this sort. Togo has 'funked,' he hasn't carried out his promise made to us when the last Japanese loan was being floated, and it looks as if the brave Professor's advice would not be followed. Ten inch shells are much more formidable weapons than the jawbone of an ass. The appeal to good friends is likely to fizzle out. Admiral Togo is forgetting the slogan of the strenuous life—that 'nothing succeeds like success.'—We cannot see that the *Chafoo* paper was very successful in its estimate of Togo."

DR. HUNTER'S REPORT.

The report of Dr. William Hunter, the Government Bacteriologist, for 1904, appears in the current *Government Gazette*. Some interesting extracts are as follows:—

The Bacteriological Institute is nearing completion. It will be ready for the commencement of research work about the beginning of August or September.

During the year, 1,551 human bodies were examined at the public mortuary. Of these, no fewer than 1,026 were upon male subjects. This great difference between the number of males and females examined does not obtain in the case of infants under one year of life. Out of 498 infants examined 236 were males.

In continuation of my researches into the subject, my observations lead to the conclusion, that pathologically there is little evidence of tubercular infection through the alimentary tract. If tubercle bacilli enter the system through this channel, they never leave evidence of having done so in the intestine. My results bear this out thoroughly.

Quite recently, Behring has come forward with a most important announcement. It is almost as startling as that made by Koch in 1901.

He concludes that tuberculosis is acquired in infancy when the intestinal mucous membrane is in a state of considerable permeability. The disease remains potential, until the environment or circumstances of the individual enable the tubercle bacillus to grow and set up the active disease in its typical form. He quotes in support of his contention, the now well known post-mortem results of Nageli, who showed that evidence of active or latent tubercle could be demonstrated in the bodies of all persons over 30 years of age. Again 68 per cent. of the men of an Austrian regiment reacted to tuberculin. Again, it is known that acute generalised tuberculosis, tubercular meningitis, etc., are most frequently found in infants and children. Phthisis occurs most frequently during the working period of life. Intestinal tuberculosis is rare at any age.

Further, acute tuberculosis is usually a widespread blood infection. Phthisis is a direct infection through the respiratory passages, and is a more or less local disease of the lungs.

With the theories of Koch and Behring before us, therefore, we have:—

1. Bovine tuberculosis communicated by food to infants and children. It may remain latent, or cause widespread tubercular infection of their bodies.

2. Human tuberculosis communicated from one adult to another by contact. It sets up localised tuberculosis, e.g., phthisis.

The question of the mechanism of ruptures of the abdominal solid viscera is most interesting, and I propose to deal with the subject more or less fully in a subsequent annual report.

The relations existing between rat and human plague show the same characteristics as found in 1902 and 1903. Epizootic rat plague is followed by epidemic plague within a week or a fortnight.

Danzon's virus is to be used in Hongkong for the destruction of rats. The same virus was used last year in France with colossal success.

The cause of the repeated excessive mortality amongst fowls in the Colony and neighbouring parts of China, has been found to be fowl cholera.

The bacteriological examination of a Japanese disinfectant called "Disinfectol" shows that this preparation is highly valuable as a germicidal agent. It is more effectual, but, at the same time, more expensive than Jayes' Fluid.

THE TRADE OF HONGKONG.

The Harbour Master in his annual report, under the heading of "Trade" says:—Once more it is necessary to call attention to the want of accuracy in the returns under this heading. There being no Custom House in the Colony, it is impossible for accurate returns to be compiled, but information given by the officers and agents of ships might with advantage be of a fuller and more detailed description. It is true that I am empowered to call for copies of manifests of cargo imported, but so long as the favourite and

comprehensive term "Case of Merchandise" continues to be employed, such manifest will not help us much, while to deal with the various weights and measures of the cases, &c., as entered in the manifests, would require a very much larger staff than we now possess. As it is, the returns are compiled by the Assistant Harbour Master, from information given by officers of the ships, or, in some cases the agents. It frequently happens that the officer giving the information is ignorant of the existence on board of certain items which it is imperative should be reported, e.g., Dangerous Goods.

This being so, I do not consider it necessary to say more on this subject than that, from these perfunctory reports, it appears that:—

Import cargo has increased by

167,229 tons or 4.2 per cent.

Export cargo has increased by

360,742 tons, or 16.0 per cent.

Transit cargo has increased by

276,976 tons, or 9.6 per cent.

Bunker coal shipped decreased by

10,665 tons, or 1.6 per cent.

The total reported import trade of the port for 1904 amounted to 26,588 vessels of 11,205,516 tons, carrying 7,889,978 tons of cargo, of which 4,738,052 tons were discharged at Hongkong. This does not include the number, tonnage, or cargo of junks, or steam launches employed in local trade.

Similarly, the export trade from the port was represented by 26,639 vessels of 11,199,850 tons, carrying 3,436,726 tons of cargo, and shipping 670,811 tons of bunker coal.

During the year 1904, 14,922 vessels of European construction of 19,227,312 tons (net register), reported having carried 10,572,844 tons of cargo as follows:

Import cargo	4,150,639 tons.
Export	2,605,861 "
Transit	3,151,926 "
Bunker coal shipped	664,418 "

10,572,844 tons.

The total number of tons was, therefore, 54.4 per cent. of the total net register tonnage (or 76.7 per cent. exclusive of river steamers), and was apportioned as follows:—

Imports.

British ships	2,399,704
Foreign ships	1,750,935
	4,150,639

Exports.

British ships	1,579,051
Foreign ships	1,026,810
	2,605,861

Transit.

British ships	2,105,696
Foreign ships	1,046,230
	3,151,926

Bunker Coal.

British ships	332,310
Foreign ships	332,108
	664,418

Grand Total..... 10,572,844

SUNDAY CARGO-WORKING AT HONGKONG.

During 1904, 308 permits were issued under the provisions of the Ordinance. Of these, 78 were not availed of owing to its being found unnecessary for the ship to work cargo on Sunday, and the fee paid for the permit was refunded in each case.

The revenue collected under this heading was \$37,625; this was \$2,825 more than in 1903.

The revenue collected each year since the Ordinance came into force is as follows:—

1892	\$ 4,800
1893	7,900
1894	13,375
1895	11,600
1896	7,575
1897	11,850
1898	25,925
1899	21,825
1900	43,550
1901	44,800
1902	44,175
1903	34,800
1904	37,625

SEAMEN SHIPPED AT HONGKONG.

During 1904, twenty-one thousand eight hundred and thirty (21,830) seamen were shipped and twenty-five thousand two hundred and ninety-two (25,292) discharged at the Mercantile Marine Office and on board ships during the year.

Four hundred and sixty-seven (467) "distressed seamen" were received during the year. Of these, 159 were sent to the United Kingdom, 13 to Sydney, 2 to Vancouver, 77 to Calcutta, 2 to Singapore, 1 went as passenger to Port Said, 3 to Calcutta, 28 to United Kingdom, 8 to Singapore, 2 to Manila, 1 to San Francisco, 1 to Haiphong, 1 to Shanghai, 1 to Japan, 29 to Canton, 1 obtained employment on shore, 3 joined the Canton Customs, 3 Lappa Customs, 4 taken charge of by the United States Consul, 1 by the French Consul, 2 disappeared, 2 died at the Government Civil Hospital, 1 at the Lunatic Asylum, 8 remained at the Government Civil Hospital, 1 at the Tung Wah Hospital, 35 at the Sailors' Home, and 78 obtained employment.

Seven thousand two hundred and eighty-four dollars and forty-two cents (\$7,284.42) were expended by the Harbour Master on behalf of the Board of Trade, in the relief of these distressed seamen.

MARINE SURVEYOR'S SUB-DEPARTMENT.

During 1904, 196 vessels were surveyed for passenger certificates and bottom inspection and 125 were surveyed for emigration, being an increase of 6 and 14 respectively on the previous year which was then the highest on record. The increased number of emigration surveys is almost entirely accounted for by the opening up of emigration to South Africa, 13 vessels—all British—of 65,255 gross tons having been surveyed and measured for that trade alone.

The number of visits paid to different vessels, docks, building yards, boiler shops, &c., in connection with survey work amounts to 2,140.

Two hundred and three (203) licences were granted to steam launches during the year, 45 new boilers were built to board of trade rules, under supervision 3 minor inspections were made, 5 foreign vessels were measured, 35 vessels were measured for tonnage for British registry. 126 surveys on Government steam launches were completed during the year. 82 European engineers were examined of whom 73 were successful and 11 failed. 104 Chinese engineers were examined of whom 90 passed and 14 failed.

Owing to the Kowloon and Cosmopolitan docks being blocked at different times by vessels undergoing extensive repairs, 31 of the surveys for passenger certificates took place at the Aberdeen dock, involving considerable loss of time and extra expense in hiring an outside launch. I would respectfully point out that owing to the increase in work and the greater distance apart of the building yards and shops an additional launch is urgently needed.

PROPOSED STATUE OF H.M. THE QUEEN IN HONGKONG.

The following correspondence has reached us for publication:—

Hongkong, 10th March.

Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Chairman.
Coronation Committee.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Hewett on his departure for home has handed to me the various papers relating to the above fund.

I beg to enclose two telegrams which have been received from Mr. Wade, the Sculptor, which speak for themselves.

The first to Mr. Hewett reading "credono willingly" means "I am willing to undertake the Commission at the price named if appointed by His Majesty."

The second to Sir Paul Chater reading "submitted letters, King approves, Wade" speaks for itself.

It seems, therefore, appropriate for the committee to ask H. E. the Governor to be good enough to forward to the proper quarter their request for permission to erect a Statue to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen.

Might I ask you, as Chairman of the Committee, to put forward their application to H. E. the Governor.—I am, etc.

GERSHOM STEWART
Acting Hon. Secretary,
Coronation Committee.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 22nd March.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 10th inst. relative to the proposed Statue of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has requested the Secretary of State for the Colonies to forward the application of the Coronation Committee to the proper quarter for the Royal approval.—I have, etc.,

F. H. MAY,

Colonial Secretary.

The Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart.

GOVERNOR'S DESPATCH TO SECRETARY
OF STATE.

Government House,

Hongkong, 14th March, 1905.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that the Committee which carried out the arrangements for the celebration in Hongkong on the occasion of the Coronation of Their Majesties the King and Queen desire to utilise funds which still remain in their hands for the erection at Hongkong of a Statue representing Her Majesty the Queen, and to employ Mr. George E. Wade, the eminent Sculptor, to make the statue.

I have now to request that you will be good enough to forward to the proper quarter this application for the Royal permission for the erection of the statue and, if granted, that you will ascertain the wishes of the King with regard to the artist to be entrusted with the work.—I have, etc.,

MATTHEW NATHAN,
Governor &c.

The Right Honourable,
Alfred Lyttelton, K.C., M.P.

REPLY FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE.
Downing Street, 12th May, 1905.

SIR,—I have laid before the King your despatch No. 73 of the 14th of March, and His Majesty has been pleased to approve the proposal to erect in Hongkong a Statue of Her Majesty the Queen.

His Majesty has also been pleased to approve the suggestion that the statue should be made by Mr. George Wade.—I have, etc.

ALFRED LYTTELTON.

Sir M. Nathan, K.C.M.G.

Governor &c. &c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 15th, June.

Sir,—Referring to my letter No. 1939/05 of the 22nd March last, I am directed to inform you that His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve the proposal of the Coronation Committee to erect a statue of Her Majesty the Queen in this Colony.

His Majesty has also been pleased to approve the suggestion that the statue should be made by Mr. George Wade.—I have, etc.

F. H. MAY,

Colonial Secretary.

The Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart.

HONGKONG STEAM LAUNCHES.

On the 31st December, says the Harbour Master in his report for 1904, there were 262 steam launches employed in the harbour. Of these, 106 were licensed for the conveyance of passengers, 134 were privately owned, 16 were the property of the Colonial Government, and 6 belonged to the Imperial Government in charge of Military Authorities.

Seventeen master's certificates were suspended, 7 for one month, 3 for six weeks, 3 for two months, 3 for three months, and 1 for six months; 2 engineer's certificates were suspended for 1 and 6 months respectively. Three masters were cautioned.

Four hundred and forty-three (443) engagements, and four hundred and fifty-six (456) discharges of masters and engineers were made from 1st January, to 31st December.

Fourteen (14) steam launches were permitted to carry arms, &c., for their protection against pirates; of these, twelve were previously permitted, and two during this year.

SHIPPING AT HONGKONG.

HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT.

The Harbour Master's Report for 1904 is printed in the *Hongkong Government Gazette*, current issue. Here are extracts:—

SHIPPING ENTERED AND CLEARED.

The total tonnage entering and clearing during the year 1904, exclusive of steam launches in local trade, amounted to 24,754,042 tons, being an increase, compared with 1903, of 714,180 tons, and the highest tonnage yet recorded.

There were 58,093 arrivals of 12,388,892 tons, and 58,099 departures of 12,365,150 tons.

Of British Ocean vessels, 2,162 ships of 3,862,802 tons entered, and 2,156 ships of 3,845,932 tons cleared.

Of British River Steamers, 2,937 ships of 2,849,896 tons entered and 2,935 ships of 2,847,464 tons cleared.

Of foreign ocean vessels, 1,845 ships of 2,679,908 tons entered and 1,851 ships of 2,670,939 tons cleared.

Of foreign river steamers, 517 ships of 235,144 tons entered and 519 ships of 235,227 tons cleared.

Of steam launches in foreign trade 1,027, of 52,892 tons entered and 1,027 of 52,892 tons cleared.

Of junks in foreign trade, 18,100 of 1,524,874 tons entered and 18,151 of 1,547,396 tons cleared.

Of junks in local trade, 31,505 of 1,183,376 tons entered and 31,469 of 1,165,300 tons cleared.

	per cent.
British ocean tonnage represented	31.2
Foreign " " "	21.3
British river " " "	23.1
Foreign " " "	1.9
Steam launches in foreign trade " " "	.5
Junks " " "	12.5
" " Local " " "	9.5
	100.0

7,435 steamers, 26 sailing vessels, 1,027 steam launches, and 18,100 junks in foreign trade, entering during the year, giving a daily average of 70, as against 68 in 1903.

For vessels of European construction, exclusive of steam launches, the daily average was 20.36 against 19.9 in 1903.

For vessels under the British Flag, there was an increase of 1,741 ships of 2,155,793 tons, of which 1,389 ships of 1,225,498 tons are river steamers. The remainder, 352 ships of 930,300 tons, are a net increase in British Ocean vessels, due to a large influx of colliers and other tramp steamers in ballast, attracted to the Far East by the war.

The increase in river steamers is due to the fact that 10 new vessels started to ply during the year.

In vessels under foreign flags, there is a decrease of 1,308 ships of 1,946,897 tons, of which 159 ships are river steamers. The river steamer tonnage, however, shows an increase of 36,008 tons, giving a net decrease in foreign ocean shipping of 1,149 ships of 1,910,889 tons.

This decrease due to:—

- (i) The disappearance of all Russians and almost all Japanese ships from the run since the war began.
- (ii) A large number of small German and Norwegian vessels being transferred to the Japanese coast trade.
- (iii) A considerable decrease in numbers (but increase in tonnage) of vessels under U.S.A. colours.

The decrease in numbers of foreign river steamers is due to the smaller number of individual vessels plying, while the increased tonnage is accounted for by the larger size of those left.

The actual number of ships of European construction (exclusive of river steamers and steam launches) entering during 1904 was 885, being 509 British, and 376 foreign.

These 885 ships entered 4,007 times, and gave a total tonnage of 6,543,710 tons. Thus compared with 1903, 144 more ships entered 12

times less, and with a total tonnage decreased by 466,471 tons.

The 509 British vessels carried 3,876 British officers and 51 foreign officers, as follows:—

British	3,786
Dutch	2
Norwegian	2
United States	45
French	1
Swedish	1

Total, 3,837

Thus, the proportion of foreign officers in British ships was 1.07 per cent. comprising five nationalities. An increase of 0.18 per cent., with an increase of ships.

The 376 foreign ships carried 2,764 officers, of which 183 were British borne as follows:—

In Chinese Ships	98
" United States	18
" Japanese	60
" French	3
" Belgian	4

Total, ... 183.

The proportion of British officers in foreign ships was, therefore, 6.62 per cent., distributed among five nationalities. A decrease of 2.68 per cent. with a decrease of ships.

CREWS.

IN BRITISH VESSELS.

17.8 per cent. were British.
1.9 " " Other European.
81.2 " " Asiatic.

IN FOREIGN VESSELS.

1.8 per cent. were British.
26.9 " " Other European.
71.3 " " Asiatic.

This shows a slight increase of British and other European in British vessels and other European in foreign vessels, with a slight falling off in the proportion of Asiatic.

HONGKONG DURING 1904.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS FROM THE BLUE BOOK.

The outbreak of war between Russia and Japan on the 8th February was not without effect on the shipping trade of Hongkong. The percentage of British to total tonnage entering and clearing which had fallen continuously from 75 to 59 in the previous 10 years, rose to 70 in 1904 owing to causes already given in this report. The war brought in its train various questions, involving recourse to the law courts of the Colony, relating to its effect on charter parties and to the refusal of duty by seamen on ships carrying contraband. Speculation in blockade running resulted in some heavy losses to the Chinese and there was tightness of money at the end of the year. After the naval action at Chemulpo on the 9th February some Russian wounded were treated in the Hongkong Hospitals pending removal to Europe and the attention paid to them was duly recognized by the Russian Government. Later 4 officers and 61 men from a Russian torpedo boat destroyer, who had taken refuge at Weihaiwei, were transferred to Hongkong and arrangements for their maintenance here made in consultation with the Russian Consul.

An attempt was made in the latter half of the year to start the shipment to South Africa via Hongkong of indentured labourers recruited in the Kwang Si and Kwang Tung Provinces on similar conditions as regards terms of engagement and arrangements for transport to those embodied in the Convention for shipment of labourers to South Africa from the Treaty Ports, which was signed in London on the 13th May, 1904. An agreement was made by the Acting Consul General at Canton with the Viceroy of the Two Kwang for despatching to Hongkong labourers recruited at Wuchow by the Chinese officials. The class of recruits obtained in this manner was not satisfactory nor were the numbers obtainable from the two Provinces, in the face of opposition from persons interested in recruiting for other countries, sufficient to justify the maintenance of the depot here. The attempt was therefore abandoned after 1,746 labourers had been despatched. A rebellion in Kwang Si, which died down towards the end of the year, enabled Hongkong to render a service to China by rigorously

maintaining restrictions on the export of arms and ammunition from the Colony.

The construction of a railway from Canton to the frontier of the territory under British jurisdiction, for which the British and China Corporation had made a preliminary agreement with the Chinese Government on the 28th March, 1899, formed the subject of discussion in London with the Directors of the Corporation with a view to an arrangement being made for working this railway with one to be constructed from the frontier of the New Territories to the sea at British Kowloon. The strong feeling of the Government and of the entire commercial community of the Colony as to the importance of the complete undertaking to the prosperity of Hongkong was expressed in the Report on the Blue Book for 1903.

During the year the work of the New Territories Land Court, established in 1900, and subsequently reconstituted, was completed. 254,277 separate lots had been demarcated and their ownership determined at a cost of \$43,615. Appropriate titles to these lots have since been issued.

The rice crops in the New Territories were good, and an increase in the number of houses in nearly all the villages evidenced increased prosperity. Their tenants appeared to appreciate the greater security and they derived from adequate police protection road showed willingness to assist in improving communications.

Building activity that old Kowloon and Yau-mati gives hope that in time the considerable available area on mainland south of the hills will furnish a relief the congested districts of Victoria. This relief will probably be accelerated when the proposed railway is in hand.

On the Island satisfactory progress was made on the two large docks under construction by the Admiralty and by Messrs. Butterfield & Swire. The 3ft. 6in. electric Tramway from Kennedy Town through Victoria to Shauiwan village (9½ miles of route) was open to traffic and in spite of fares that are high for China is largely used by Chinese of all classes.

Generally the year was a healthy one marked by steady development but not characterized by any event of great importance.

PARSEES AND PROSELYTISM.

Mr. D. S. Dady Burjor was interested by our extract bearing the above heading, which told how the Parsee authorities had decided to discourage the promiscuous admission of aliens, who for one reason or another sought to enter the Zoroastrian fold. He writes a long letter; much too long in relation to its general interest, to prevent a wrong impression which we do not think need seriously be feared by our Parsee friends. He says:

"This question has agitated not only the Parsee community of Bombay for these last two years but it has also been keenly watched by the Parsees scattered over all parts of India and China, and it would be no exaggeration to say that the decision so unanimously arrived at at the mass meeting of the community held at Bombay after an exhaustive survey of the question from religious, moral, and social standpoints by the community for the purpose is upheld and applauded by an overwhelming majority of the Parsees."

He proceeds to show that the Parsees are most tolerant in their regard of other religions; and (unnecessarily, we think) denies that they claim to have the only Truth, or a monopoly of (as he phrases it) "high seats in Heaven." The others have their equivalent versions of the Zoroastrian teaching in favour of "purity of thought, purity of words, purity of deeds," and he thinks they should be content.

Mr. Dady Burjor continues: "It is this sentiment of universal respect for all the known religions of the world, prevailing amongst the educated and intelligent classes in India, that has been standing in the way of the Christian Missionaries there, for though the admirable educational institutions in the shape of high-schools, and colleges, affiliated to different universities, founded by these good people are fully taken advantage of by the natives; and even bible classes are attended for the sake of mental culture, and the tempting prizes offered, whenever these men are approached with an

offer to proselytism, these reverend gentlemen are confronted with the incontrovertible answer that there is nothing in the religion of Jesus the Christ, that is not to be found in the religion of their birth. It is, therefore, but natural that the Parsees have set their faces dead against such intruders in their midst as so many traitors to their family, community, and God."

In other words, Zoroastrians fear that those who relinquish one faith with ease are unlikely to greatly ornament a second. It is also a question of purity of race. The Parsee community at last census "hardly numbered a hundred thousand," and if intermarriage were freely countenanced, the race *qua* race would inevitably perish, which would be a pity. The introduction of recruits would tend to the adulteration also of the pure creed. Zoroastrianism as it is good enough for the Parsees. To keep it as it is, they must be conservative. We admire them for it; and could wish that other cults would exercise a like tolerant restraint.

THE INDUSTRIES OF HONGKONG.

COTTON.

For the first ten months of 1904 the Cotton Spinning industry suffered severely from the abnormally high price of raw cotton, and during the whole of that period short-time was resorted to. From November onwards a good demand was experienced for yarn and full-time again adopted, but it was not until the middle of December that, as a result of large crops of cotton in the chief producing countries, the cost of the raw material declined to a figure that permitted of spinning being carried on at a profit. At the end of 1904 the outlook for the industry was encouraging, and, provided the price of cotton keeps at a reasonable level, the result of the working for 1905 is expected to be highly satisfactory.

SUGAR.

The Sugar industry in the Colony during 1904 resulted in large profits to the two local refineries. Owing to the scarcity of supplies in consequence of the large deficiency in the European Beet Crop, prices gradually advanced throughout the year, without checking demand; the quantity of refined sugar consumed in China largely exceeding that of any previous year, while there was also a good demand from other markets.

SHIP BUILDING, &c.

41 steam-launches and other vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 7,290 were built during the year.—The other large industries in the Colony connected with repairing and docking ships and the manufacture of cement and rope, are in a prosperous condition.

THE FORCE OF PUBLIC OPINION.

111,198 trees were planted in Hongkong during the year, including 105,645 pine and 1,978 camphor trees. It was proposed at the commencement of the year to introduce a scheme for felling and re-planting pine forests on the block system with a twenty-five years rotation. But as the scheme (actually begun on a big scale) was looked upon with ill-favour by the public and as the opinion was expressed in well-informed quarters that a longer period of rotation was preferable, it was decided to suspend felling operations while the advice of the Indian Government was obtained. A scheme of issuing Forestry Licences in the New Territories was initiated in the hope of inducing the Chinese to adopt more economical methods in dealing with the considerable plantations of pine trees formed before the cession of the Territories, and with the object of tempting them to take up fresh areas of waste lands for further planting. The small area available for rice cultivation and the unfertility of the soil combine to prevent agriculture from becoming a prominent industry in the Colony. The low-lying land in the New Territories is probably utilized to nearly the fullest extent possible, and it is therefore from the profitable cultivation of the steep hill slopes that any increase in the productiveness of the Territories may be derived. In this connection the cultivation of pineapple, and experiments that are being made with sisal hemp are of much interest.

BELILIOS TRUST FUND.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Matthew Nathan, at Government House on Saturday morning presented the prizes won by successful candidates in connection with the Belilios Trust Fund. Among those present were Mrs. and Miss Bateman, (head and assistant teachers of Belilios School), the Rev. Mother and Sisters of the Italian Convent, the Rev. T. E. Pearce, (trustee of the Belilios Fund) Mr. G. Piercy, (headmaster of the Diocesan Boys' School), and Mr. Dyer Ball.

Mr. Dyer Ball stated that Mr. Belilios started this fund some twenty years ago for the purpose of bestowing medals and sums of money upon those who saved life at the risk of their own, and for promoting education in the Colony. The trustees, believing that it was Mr. Belilios' desire that the study of mercantile subjects should be encouraged, arranged to hold annual examinations and award prizes out of the fund. The usual subjects were to be compulsory, but foreign languages, history and shorthand, optional. The result of one of these examinations had brought them together on 24th June, and he was pleased to state that all the candidates had done remarkably well in their subjects, both compulsory and optional. He had much pleasure in calling upon His Excellency to present the successful candidates with bank books, wherein the amount won by each was placed to his credit.

HIS EXCELLENCY, after distributing the prizes, congratulated the boys and girls on their success, and pointed out the great honour that had been done by their teachers in selecting them to compete in this examination as representatives of their several schools, a selection which in every case had, he was pleased to see, been justified by the results, and he hoped that they would thus be incited to go on and progress in their studies. To those who had not won prizes he would say, "work hard, and win them next time." His Excellency took this opportunity to announce that there would be another examination in December, which would include a new subject, that of hygiene, and he hoped that one or other of those scholars there present would carry off the prize of \$100 for that subject, which he himself was offering.

The Rev. T. E. PEARCE thanked His Excellency for presenting the prizes, and an adjournment was then made to the dining room where light refreshments were provided.

The prize list was as follows:—

Girls—Maggie Brewster (Italian Convent), first prize, \$30, silver medal, and certificate; Eva Hoyndman (Belilios Girls' School), second prize, \$20, bronze medal, and certificate; Annie Neil (Diocesan Girls' School) and Esther Noma, (Belilios Girls' School) third prizes of \$15 each, and certificates; Martha Peterson and Annie Lesbirel (Belilios Girls' School), fourth prize of \$10 each, and certificates.

Boys—Thomas Loft (Diocesan Boys' School), first prize, \$30, silver medal and certificate; William Drude (Diocesan Boys' School) second prize, \$20, bronze medal, and certificate; Harry G. Brandt (Diocesan Boys' School), third prize \$20, and certificate; Chow Kwai Lam (St. Stephen's College), and Lau Li Cheung (Ellis Kadoorie School), fourth prize \$15 each, and certificates.

LIGHT DUES.

The amount of Light dues collected at Hongkong during 1904 is as follows:—

Class of vessels.	Rate per ton.	No. of ships.	Tonnage.	Total fees collected.
Ocean vessels	1 cent	4,109	6,565,562	\$65,655.62
Steam launches	1 "	368	14,105	141.05
River steamers, (night boats)	1 "	2,305	1,935,576	6,452.52
Launches plying exclusively to Macao and West River, by night	1 "	434	24,246	80.97
River steamers, (day boats)	Free	1,149	1,149,484	...
Launches plying exclusively to Macao and West River, by day	Free	235	14,541	...
Total	...	8,590	9,703,494	72,330.16

PRESENT SITUATION IN CHINA.

LECTURE BY DR. ARTHUR SMITH.

On June 15th at Shanghai, Dr. Arthur Smith delivered an interesting lecture on "The Present Situation in China." It was given under the auspices of the China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, whose President, Sir Pelham Warren, K. C. M. G., was in the Chair. He was supported by Dr. Knappe, Senior Consul, Mr. J. N. Jameson, Chairman of the American Asiatic Association, and Mr. R. W. Little, Chairman of the China Association, and Mr. J. C. Ferguson, Hon. Sec. of the China Branch.

The author of "Chinese Characteristics," said:—It is always difficult to take the measure of one's own times, and rightly to gauge the real significance of any event. Despite this truism, there can be no questions that within the past month a new stadium of human history has been traversed—a mile-stone of the ages. Henceforth the Occidental and Far East can never be to each other in exactly the same relations. It has been said that the most puzzling question may be resolved by answering three others:

What is it?

Why is it?

What then?

What is it? Measured numerically, the greatest problem ever presented in modern times. What shall the West and the East do with each other? The East cannot get on with the West; the West cannot get on without the East. Their past relations have been full of menace to each other. There is danger that in the more distant future the peace of the whole civilised world may be involved. That world now focuses on the Pacific Ocean rather than on the Atlantic, and fifty years hence this fact will be more obvious and more emphasised than now. The world powers will then be Pacific powers—will they be pacific Powers?

What is it? The East was doing well enough as it was—a few centuries or millenniums more or less made no difference to it. The discovery of America changed all that.

"In 1492

"Columbus crossed the ocean blue,

"And life was never the same again."

Observe the different careers of different races. "England was made by her adventures." From wild discovery she was tamed into active altruism, and in India, as in Egypt, she afforded on a large scale an example of government for the benefit of the governed. After four hundred years of a policy directly the opposite, Spain has lost every colony. What is the lesson?

Western nations have invariably shown their worst side to the Eastern nations and not the best. Trade is inherently selfish. "Commerce like the rainbow bends toward the pot of gold." Adam Smith defines man as "a trading animal;" "no two dogs," he says, "exchange bones."

Firearms and intoxicating liquors to the uncivilised races, opium and morphia to the civilised, have been a shirt of Nessus. The West is not responsible for all the mischief of these curses, but we cannot escape such responsibility as we have by ignoring, forgetting, or denying known facts. The fusion point of diverse civilisations often produces an amalgam worse than either. We do not like to face the facts which we know to be such, but whether we face them or not, they remain, and sooner or later will pursue us with a Nemesis which is but another name for the scientific truth of cause and effect. Our own conduct—that of men of our Occidental races, has been and to-day is our own worst enemy. Yet on the whole, the West and the East have muddled on, with but an occasional explosion, to be followed by partial quiescence and apparent (but never real) to port.

That is the condition of China to-day rest, invertebrate, or if vertebrate, disjointed. China is an Empire without a head—a ship without a helm. By the events of the past eighteen months Japan is more than ever "the rudder of Asia." This is, however, but a new and a startling application of our own scientific law, "that the fittest survive." Who so fit, measured by any standards, as Japan? Japan is about at the charge of China—in fact she has done

it, before we knew it. She is at once slow and swift. She does everything as she makes war, by "prearrangement." After the siege of Peking she moved toward the granaries in which the Imperial rice was stored as camels in the desert make for wells. She laid her hand on the Board of Revenue with the instinct of the panther for the jugular vein. She is the one who knows; she is the one who can. Her emissaries are all over Eastern Asia in endless capacities (or apparent incapacities), silent, unobtrusive as the white ant, but equally efficacious. Only their energies are constructive, not destructive, but, as it observed, they build not for the Setting, but for the "Rising Sun." This policy has been in progress for a long time, but most of us have contented ourselves with smiles, with frowns, with shrugs, with platitudes about different-coloured "Perils."

What then? It has been said that San Francisco is 3,000 miles from New York, but the time may come when New York will be 3,000 miles from San Francisco. Some of you may live to see Shanghai the largest city in Asia—its industrial and commercial capital. Half a mile of the Shanghai Bund may represent five hundred thousand or a thousand million dollars but when, as recently in Nanking, bunds and buildings together slowly slide into a waiting and a yawning Yangtze, where then is your boasted real estate? Nothing more urent, and your securities might as well be styled insecurities.

It is not bonds, nor business which permanently enrich, but conformity to moral laws, which man never made, and can never unmake.

"The world knows nothing of its greatest men." Commerce has opened China by the aid of cannon, but the real opening of China has been done by men whose very names some of us do not know. Robert Morrison, the centenary of whose arrival we mean to celebrate in 1907, a scholar of wonderful patience, perseverance and penetration, who made the first English-Chinese Dictionary, first translated the whole Bible, and almost single-handed produced a literature for China opened. Robert Milne, his co-labourer burnt out before his time with excess of zeal. Samuel Wells Williams, a printer, student of everything Oriental, editor of the great Chinese Repository, maker of the first Commercial Guide, the first modern dictionary of Chinese to whom all successors owe a great, though some times unacknowledged, debt. Peter Parker, who opened China at the point of his lancet and was equally skilful in diplomacy. Wm. McArthur, a man of equal diligence and learning. Wm. Lockhart, also of Shanghai, and later of Peking, a pioneer medical missionary on which topic he wrote his best book. Alexander Wylie, whose learning was equalled by his modesty, who left a compendium of all Chinese literature. Our own William Muirhead, zealous in all good work. Joseph Edkins, who had forgotten more about China than most of us ever knew. John G. Nevius, the best all-round missionary it was ever my privilege to know, broad-minded, meek-spirited, catholic, dear even to the secular heart by reason of his pears and his apples. Time would fail to name others, but one should not be omitted, recently laid to rest in Chinkiang, Hudson Taylor. His great Society, ridiculed at its inception, has been a foremost agency in unlocking China to the world and to that trade which some of us worship. In general, every mission station in inland China is a dynamo, diffusing light and radiating heat. Look at such a work as that of Duncan Main in Hangchow, or of Dr. Wilson in Suining in distant Szechuan, scattering blessings broadcast with impartial and unwearied hands. There are scores of other centres of a like kind but smaller in their scale of operations.

What then? Gentlemen of Shanghai, great merchants, great investors, great promoters! Please to remember that beneath your contracts, your concessions, your operations, there is a simple but a shining principle: "As ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them likewise." Race hatred is not a valuable asset in business, and in an Oriental country it is most perilous. If you have "samples," or even what the chemists term "traces"—in your possession, hasten to unload them into the Huangpu. The Chinese appreciate sympathy. Let us extend it. China is in deep trouble; let

us help her. We need no new ways; use the ones already in existence.

(1) As a basis, the Royal Asiatic Society should be raised from the dead. It should have a new building, and a library which shall not be as now the ridicule of Asia, but which shall contain everything of importance ever published on China and the Far East. Each current work should be promptly secured. Then its reading-room would be a seat of learning, and not as at present a seat in a cemetery.

(2) The "Diffusion Society" is equipped to do a work which is important—essential. It has the ablest editors to be found, and it needs more of them. But its most urgent want is money. Why do you not give it twenty or thirty thousand taels to set it on its feet? No investment would or could be better worth while. Already the names of Timothy Richard, Dr. W. A. P. Martin, Dr. Young J. Allen, and Dr. Gilbert Reid are known all over China. This is an excellent foundation on which to build, and to build high and strong after digging deep.

(3) The Educational Society of China is equipped for a cognate but distinct work. It lacks articulateness. It lacks funds. It should have a paid secretary, and many translators. Imitate the wise business sagacity of the Commercial Press—a semi-Japanese agency. You ought to rise the sum of twenty thousand taels and endow the Education Society as one of the best investments you can make in China to perpetuate the hold which Anglo-Saxon education already has in this Empire.

(4) The Chinese Department of the Y.M.C.A. is a unique agency through which to gain the acquaintance, the goodwill, and the respect of the rising generation of those who are to be powerful, controlling factors in the New China of railways and of manufacture. The Association is about to put up a new building. Sir Thos. Haubury has made them an offer of a large discount on a desirable site. But it is now desired to incorporate with this the proposed Martyrs' Memorial Hall. Nothing is lacking but the money. You ought to give twenty thousand taels to the Chinese Y.M.C.A. as a token of your goodwill and deep interest in the New China. In the present war money from somewhere has been found to sow thickly the Chia Sea with deadly mines, perhaps destroying at one fell exhalation a million pounds sterling of fixed capital. Is it too much to ask Shanghai to contribute of its over-abundance one hundred thousand taels to secure the peace of Asia—to hasten the day when

"The war drum throbs no longer and the battle flags are furled,

In the Parliament of Man, the Federation of the World?"—N. C. Daily News.

EXTENDING SHANGHAI.

CHINESE REFUSE GOOD ROADS.

In a lecture at Shanghai, a report of which we have to-day adapted from our northern contemporary, Dr. Arthur Smith suggests that one day Shanghai may be the London of Asia, or words to that effect. Its city fathers are already finding the need of more elbow-room. There is a pretty rural resort popularly spoken of as the Hills, to which at present access is had by canal, the native roads being so bad. Shanghai proposes to make a good road thereto, but the Chinese, ignoring the fact that they also would benefit, as a good road to the Hills means a good road to Shanghai, are stupidly opposing the work.

The people of Tsingpoo (or Chingpu, as the sinologues spell it), a place to the west of the Model Settlement, do not seem to regard good communications as a blessing; and their (very) evil communications have corrupted their good manners. "A good deal of excitement and hostile feeling" is reported as a result of the surveyors' visit. They have petitioned the Shanghai Taotai, who has apparently reported to Viceroy Chou Fu of Nanking, who has in turn told the Waiwupu, who are expected to demand of the British and American Ministers at Peking that "all further encroachments" be stopped. And still the missionaries tell us that a wonderful change is coming over China! This objection to good roads smacks of the same old China.

BATTLE OF TSUSHIMA.

A CRITICISM.

[WRITTEN FOR THE "DAILY PRESS."]

In the training of fleets and armies so that, when a war is undertaken, the best results may be obtained from them, there are four actual divisions into which the scheme for training should be divided—four only—but each dependent upon the other for the success of a battle or series of battles. The element called 'luck' may be neglected in all considerations of the subject as it will usually be found that, where 'luck' has been supposed to have sided with one or other belligerent, it has been traceable upon careful investigation to original skill and daring. The expression of Napoleon, when wishing to choose a general, 'est-il heureux?' (Is he lucky?) might have just as easily been 'Is he quick skilful or lucky?' The four essentials to success, then, are good drill, manoeuvre, tactics, and finally strategy. Drill is the individual training of men in peace time so that, in war, men and officers may get the best mechanical use out of their weapons and themselves, i.e., so move and use their weapons as to inflict the maximum of harm upon the enemy with the least chance of injury to themselves. From the drill point of view, we find the Russians at an appalling disadvantage as compared to the Japanese during the battle of the Japan Seas. One would almost suppose that their system of drill had been directed towards using their weapons with a minimum of effect and maximum of personal exposure. The aiming by Russia's gunners seems to have nullified the effect of the many first-class guns that fleet possessed; whilst, the usual disadvantage of placing modern quick firing weapons in inexperienced hands was apparent early in the engagement in the failure of ammunition which had been practically wasted in reckless and nervous firing. It will be recollected that, in South Africa, the lack of skill in this direction, resultant from the training at drill of our infantry caused more than one disaster and surrender. So, commencing at the bottom rung of the ladder which leads to success in warfare we see that the Russian side lacked the drill which might have given it a chance to use the second rung—namely manoeuvre—to best advantage. Manoeuvre is the practising and moving collectively individuals so that they may become accustomed in war to use what has been taught at drill to the best advantage. At sea manoeuvring consists in practising ships' commanders to rapidly assume any formation or take up any position ordered by the admiral, always with the same object in view—the giving individual drill its best chances by bringing the enemy into the position of a better target to aim at combined with less exposure to his own ships. In manoeuvre the Russians seem to have been useless. In fact, the fleet practically did not manoeuvre at all—excepting the portion under Admiral Enqvist which exposed itself so little that it may be said to have 'funked it' altogether. The Japanese, observing this fault, combined with indifferent gunnery on the Russian side, were enabled to force their opponents to manoeuvre as suited themselves and certainly took the utmost advantage of this lack of skill on the part of the Russian commanders. In tactics the Russians appear to have been hopeless—and by tactics is meant the skilful disposition of ships when approaching the enemy and whilst the fight is in progress. The tactics of the fleet would be naturally the result of the active brain of the different commanders of squadrons working on one general idea laid down carefully beforehand by the Commander-in-Chief. From the meagre accounts of the fighting actually to hand it can be gathered that there were practically no tactical moves made during the action by the Russians at all. No skilful general idea seems to have been pre-arranged and the fleet appears to have got into confusion from the outset, and each ship to have looked after itself instead of forming part of a well thought out combination of moves and counter-moves. And lastly the Russian strategy!!—the moves, that is, of the fleet prior to contact with the enemy—those carefully planned moves of the squadrons which should have given, when

actually meeting the enemy, Rozhdestvensky's ships and men as much the advantage, at the commencement of the fight, as possible. We read that, after hearing the pros and cons of one line of advance after another as suggested by his other officers, the Russian Admiral, glass in hand, simply announced his intention of steaming straight into the Straits of Tsushima and advised his subordinates (having done about the worst for them he could from a strategic point of view) to do their best, under the circumstances, for the Tsar and Russia! What a fiasco! With such strategy to start with, it is not surprising to find the Russians dropped on whilst steaming in two long lines (if reports speak truly) and, whilst solemnly proceeding in this grand procession, easily surrounded by the Japanese and grounded to pieces. Certainly, placing their daring and pluck on one side, the Japanese had the advantage from start to finish, the advantage of firstly good strategy, exhibited by Admiral Togo's original dispositions of his fleets; secondly good tactics, displayed by the subordinate commanders of divisions of the fleet when in action; thirdly splendid and handy manoeuvring of the ships by their captains in every phase of the engagement and last, but not least, the magnificent result of well drilled and trained crews, so that the greatest effect was given to the plans and orders of their officers.

THE COTTON BOOM.

STAPLE CHEAP: YARN DEARER.

The chief factor that has brought about the present prosperous condition of the cotton-spinning business is to be attributed, of course, to the decline in the quotations of raw cotton. During 1902 and 1903, says the *Jiji Shimpō*, the price of raw cotton was exceedingly high, American cotton being quoted at more than 50 yen per picul and Indian cotton over 40 yen. During last year, however, the price suddenly declined.

But not only has the cost of production of cotton yarn been affected by this fact, but the price of yarn has actually risen owing to the increased demand in North China where the purchasing power of the people has been considerably augmented, no doubt, as the result of the money spent by the contending armies there. Moreover China had been buying less yarn than usual during the past few years and is now evidently buying a larger quantity to make up for the shortage in previous years.

Not only in China but in Japan also the demand for cotton fabrics and yarn has greatly increased since about the time of the Mukden battle, resulting in the anomaly of the price of yarn being forced up while that of raw cotton has gone down.

Although yarn has considerably advanced in price as compared with the quotations prevailing in the immediate past, it is by no means an exceptional price, and consequently it can hardly be regarded as a temporary phenomenon.

Again, the present quotation for raw cotton, which rules between Y20 and Y30, is a reasonable figure, and it is improbable the high prices of 1902-3 will occur again under ordinary circumstances. Supposing the quotation of raw cotton and cotton yarn to be maintained, the present position and the future of the spinning industry must be regarded as very promising, though of course it is not certain how long such a satisfactory state of affairs will continue.

As far as present appearances indicate, there is nothing that is likely to disturb the existing state of things. It would be well for the spinners, however, to pay close attention to the condition of the raw cotton market, for it is rather curious to note that the price of cotton and yarn is apparently not always ruled by the relation of supply and demand. Paradoxical it may seem, yet it is true that the fluctuations in the price of one in most cases do not directly affect that of the other. The quotations of raw cotton are more regulated by the abundance or otherwise of the supply or crops than by their causes, though in the case of such a long-continued high price as that which prevailed during the past few years it will undoubtedly have the effect of checking the demand for cotton yarn and fabrics. Two-thirds of the output of yarn and cotton goods in Japan are

for domestic consumption, and the spinners are often thrown into great distress quite irrespective of prices of raw cotton, so that the present state of unexpected prosperity in the yarn trade must have come to the spinners in the nature of an agreeable surprise.

If the present thriving state of the business continues for a certain length of time, it is probable that the number of spindles will be increased by extension or the establishment of new mills, and thus the existing factories will be deprived of the monopoly of the profit accruing from the business. But this will not occur for some time to come, though it is likely that the project of buying up the Ping-an and Shanghai mills, which has been held in abeyance, will be resuscitated. Whatever projects may be cherished by some mills to increase the number of spindles, an extension on any large scale or new enterprises will not take place until the present prosperity has been maintained for some months. Even then the establishment of new mills by inexperienced men, as occurred after the Japan-China War, is not likely to be repeated, but the expansion will be confined to the enlargement of business by existing undertakings.

TIENTSIN'S TRADE OUTLOOK.

Serious attention is demanded, from every one who has the interests of Tientsin at heart, to the annual returns of and report on the trade of Tientsin during 1904, just published by the Imperial Maritime Customs. Not that the trade of the port last year was unsatisfactory; quite the reverse was the case. But it is requisite to look beyond the present. In many respects the trade returns for last year give good grounds for congratulation. But Mr. Ferguson and his assistants show conclusively in their admirably prepared report and tables that a time is almost due when Tientsin as a port must inevitably choose either to go ahead or to fall behind in the keen commercial struggle that is every day becoming more exacting in North China.

The year 1904 was not in some respects so good as 1903, but the recovery since the Boxer trouble was well maintained. If that were all that was necessary there would be room for congratulation. But the report very properly draws attention to the fact that a new era of increased competition is at hand, when new railways and rival seaports will struggle to deprive Tientsin of its long preeminence as the chief port and emporium of North China. At present Tientsin is not fully equipped to meet this competition. It will be seen that serious warning is given as to the necessity of improving the harbour, river, and bar. Circumstances will admit of little further delay. Fortunately, we believe, this adjuration will not fall on deaf ears. As is known, two important meetings are to be held next week in Tientsin, at which a carefully prepared scheme in connexion with the improvement of the Taku Bar will be submitted, and we trust that at these gatherings steps will be taken which will remove all possible fears that the port may decay.

The important thing to remember, however, is that mere standing still will not avert decadence. It is essential by prompt and vigorous action to forge ahead. And forging ahead means spending money—with, however, the practical certainty of getting it back again in one shape or another with handsome interest.—*China Times*.

"RIALTO" GOSSIP.

"Money was never 'tighter' at Hongkong," said a broker to a *Daily Press* reporter on June 23rd. "Shares that under normal conditions should now be attracting buyers are stagnant, because there is no money loose to play with."

No. It is not Europeans, but Chinese. Few people realise how hard hit they have been, how many failures and private arrangements there have been; and it is not over yet.

Togo's famous victory should have sent exchange down with a run, and that it didn't may be taken as some sign of the truth of what I tell you. Prospects generally are excellent; but until the local stringency in China-town is eased, there will be little doing for us."

POPULARITY IN THE FAR EAST.

Recently quite a number of cases of suicide among foreigners have had to be recorded in this part of the world. Under the heading of "The Fate of the 'Popular Man' in the Far East," the *Eastern World* has a strongly worded article on the subject, contending that popularity in the Far East seems to be only the first chapter in a book, the final chapter of which is suicide, charity, or disgrace. Says our Yokohama contemporary:—

A man, to be popular, has to give a good deal of the time that should be devoted to his business, or to his family, to others who neither ask nor care whether he has the time or the money necessary for convivial intercourse with them. He has also to belong to a number of Clubs, principally devoted to sports and amusements, which cuts another big slice out of his working hours and out of his earnings, and very often, indeed, it takes away the whole of them; and the more proficient he is in some sport or the other, or the more he contributes towards the amusement of others, the more money he spends in drink and gambling, or what is called "entertaining," the greater his popularity. No one asks or cares whether his business or his home go to the dogs in the meantime. All that is required of him is that he shall keep up the show, wear new clothes, new ties, new hats, and take part in, or be seen at, every show or amusement in town, and that he shall go to the country in the summer and leaves his business to Japanese boys in the meantime.

There may have been times here when money came rolling in, work or no work, when nothing could stop it from rolling in, but if ever there were such times they have gone by long ago. We know many cases in which the house on the Bluff, or on the seaside, has driven away business from the office, and we know of some such cases now. People have not the courage to say "I cannot both afford this or that," or "I have to work early and late and more than ever to make both ends meet." What we frequently hear instead is this: "My bank credits, my business credit would be gone if I did not keep up appearances." And that, in many cases is all that it comes to—appearances. But the glittering shell grows thinner and thinner every day, until, some day, it cracks and crumbles to dust, and then we hear of a suicide, bankruptcy, the prison, or a disgraceful flight, and the survivors, who have known that it must come to that, but have done nothing to arrest the victim of his road to ruin, because he paid his blood tax, utter hypocritical regrets, and—turn to the next "popular man," and some one who thinks that he owes more to others than to himself or to those belonging to him will generally turn up. The less light there is in a man, the more will he seek to shine in the light of others; the less a man thinks of himself, the more will he crave to be thought much of and to be courted by others, and the less scrupulous will he be in the choice of means to attain that will-o'-the-wisp, "popularity," no matter what the end may be.

This craving for excitement, amusement, and popularity is as strong as that for strong drink, or as that which those suffering from the morphine habit are said to experience. One may, indeed, say that its gratification is morphine to many who have nothing to occupy their minds when alone so that they have a horror of being alone with themselves and fly to any distraction at any cost. We have never been able to understand it.

But would we put a ban on all social intercourse? some might ask. By no means, but most emphatically on all social intercourse that takes a single dollar of the provision that any honest man must make for himself and for those belonging to him; on all such social intercourse and amusements also that unfit a man to do the work that he has to do; and on all such social intercourse, finally, that makes the home a mere caravanserai or a variety show. How often do we not hear the complaint that Japanese are taking all the business away. Why? sport, drink, and amusements send business begging. No wonder that the Japanese take it in, and no wonder that in many cases even those, too, who do attend to their business suffer the consequences of the follies of others.

THE CHINESE AND THE AMERICAN TREATY.

Mr. Rockhill clearly states that it is not America's wish to exclude reputable Chinese of the better class, and the impression conveyed that they, like the Celestial labourer, would be debarred in future from entering the States must have been circulated with mischievous intent. That it has been so circulated and has obtained a hold on the Chinese minds there is no gainsaying, and the most recent telegrams from the Chinese Minister to Washington continue to affirm that the new Treaty is in every way very much stricter against Chinese than the former one which the Chinese Government requested should be terminated.

Without knowing what America has proposed to concede, it is impossible to estimate how much justification exists for the present Chinese attitude, but there seems no question that in spite of Mr. Rockhill's soft explanation an unusually strong feeling does exist in Chinese circles, and popular indignation is taking a form which would not have suggested itself to the Chinese two years ago. A more advanced tutor than merely wounded patriotism is busily opening the Chinese eyes to the possibility of fighting the foreigner with other weapons than blunderbusses, spears, pitchforks and incantations, and since the recent meetings in Shanghai a very systematic crusade has been instituted in all the ports against American imports. For the last week or ten days Peking, Tientsin, Paoting as well as the southern ports have displayed placards urging merchants to have nothing to do with any American products, and circulars have been issued by the commercial guilds in each centre, including Tientsin, Paoting and Peking embodying the decisions passed by the Shanghai meetings. While this state of public feeling lasts, an embargo will therefore probably be placed on the Standard oil, watches, clocks, cotton, piece goods, and anything and everything else hailing from the United States, but we cannot imagine the situation lasting long. America cannot, however, count on China's gratitude for the consideration and extreme toleration which the United States Government has for many years consistently displayed towards this country, in her diplomatic relations neither can the excellent social relations established between her diplomats and the Throne be regarded as a lusty reed on which to trust her weight in times like these. The display of kindly toleration, the overtures of friendship which America has made so far from helping her are a positive hindrance in her dealing with China. In the eyes of the Government and the Throne they are the bonbons and trifling "condiments" of international intercourse merely; the toys with which an idle moment may be wiled, but when it comes to something serious, China understands the temper and the policy of a Russia far better than an America.

The British have erred deeply and often enough in this direction in dealing with the Chinese, but America has gone to lengths which lead the Chinese to believe that she can afford to bluff her. The present ebullition may die down and end in nothing, or it may extend to serious dimensions. The situation is, anyway, one which we shall watch with interest.—*Peking Times*.

THE REGIMENTAL BROOM.

TO KEEP THE PEACE—OR THE PIECES

An energetic member of the Hongkong constabulary placed a coolie before Mr. G. N. Orme at the Police Court on June 16 on a charge of larceny of a broom from the barracks of the 110th Baluchis at Kowloon. The timeworn relic, with some six straws left, was exhibited before His Worship, who was informed that the coolie fought desperately when prevented from taking it out of barracks. His Worship adjourned the case until to-day, bail being allowed in the sum of \$5, and the coolie was further bound over to keep the peace. He apparently misunderstood the latter part of the interpretation of His Worship's decision, or perhaps it was the interpreter's little joke, for a smile lighted his face as he stretched out his hand to take the broom. He was under the impression that His Worship had given him permission to keep the pieces.

EXTRADITION OF ARMED ROBBERS WANTED.

Before Mr. G. N. Orme at the Police Court on the 23rd June, Mr. Hursthouse (of the Crown Solicitor's office) on behalf of the Chinese Government applied for the extradition of Lau Pun on the charge that while armed with offensive weapons, and in the company of other persons not in custody, he feloniously did assault and put in bodily fear and danger of his life, one Lui Kwong, and further feloniously did steal \$50 in money, one clock and a certain quantity of clothing from the said Lui Kwong on January last in the province of Kwangtung, Empire of China.

In outlining the case, Mr. Hursthouse stated that the charge was armed robbery. The prisoner in January, of this year, in company of a large gang of robbers, went to the country house of Lui Kwong about eleven o'clock at night. The men were armed with knives and revolvers, and threatened the complainant if he did not declare where his money was. He endeavoured to put them off, but they searched the house, and in one of the drawers which usually overhang a Chinese bed they found and appropriated a sum of \$50. They then ransacked other parts, and found a quantity of clothing. As their efforts to extort money had proved unavailing, they took a different stand, and asked complainant what had become of his son. He at first refused to tell them, but their threats eventually made him take them to the school house where his son and another boy were sleeping. They took the son up country where they held him to ransom, first demanding \$5,000, then \$3,000, and eventually handing him over for a sum of \$720.

Evidence was led and the case adjourned.

SQUEEZE PIDGIN.

A rat catching coolie in the employ of the Sanitary Board was placed before Mr. G. N. Orme at the Police Court on June 23rd on a charge of accepting or obtaining a bribe of \$1.60 from a shopkeeper at Shamsui. Evidence showed that the shop of the complainant had been washed out the day before the coolie called, but the coolie informed the master that the Portuguese feraman said the shop was not properly cleaned, and he would have to take all his goods out and get it limewashed again. If the master would give the ratcatcher one or two dollars he would speak to the foreman and get the shop exempted. The master reported the matter to the Police, and Sergeant Gordon handed him a marked dollar, which he told him to give the coolie if he again called and asked for money. The coolie called on the following day, took the dollar, and was leaving the shop when he was arrested by a detective.

The coolie informed His Worship that he was under the influence of samshui, and that when he got out of the shop he found the dollar had been placed in his pocket without his knowledge.

His Worship held the charge proved, and fined the defendant \$60, or the alternative of six weeks' hard labour.

JAPANESE MISSIONARIES FOR CHINA.

The *China Times* claims excellent authority for saying that H.E. Natung has granted the request of Mr. Uchida, the Japanese Minister in Peking, that Japanese missionaries shall be permitted to enter the Chinese Empire for evangelistic purposes.

It understands that the Chinese Government submitted the question to the Viceroy and Governors of all the Provinces, but among these the opinion of the majority was that it would be superfluous to have foreigners coming to China to preach a religion that might now be considered practically indigenous to China. Moreover, it was pointed out that the proposed innovation would have the effect of retarding Japanese trade in those localities where the Japanese missionaries conducted their operations. This latter is a matter which the provincial authorities are supposed to be taking into serious consideration.

COMMERCIAL.

The Yokohama Prices Current and Market Report, published by the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade, and dated June 15th, 1905, has the following—

IMPORTS.

Yarn.—A few small contracts have again been made at quotations. We hear also of similar business done at Kobe and Osaka—quite a spasmodic revival in the long-neglected Lancashire spinings. Shirtings.—Since the dispersal of the Baltic Fleet, the market has revived, and there are some sales reported both in "spot" and "futures." The tone of the market is distinctly better than for weeks past. Fancy Cottons and Woollens.—Nothing doing, owing to the uncertain future. Metals.—A moderate business is being transacted. Prices generally are weak and have a downward tendency. Kerosene.—Unchanged. Sugar.—The market has been somewhat stronger since last Report, and prices have experienced a fair advance. It is reported that the Tokyo Sugar Refinery have lately exported some 10,000 bags of their refined to Shanghai. Indigo.—No enquiry whatever.

EXPORTS.

Raw Silk.—Only a very small business has been done during the last fortnight, owing to lack of stock suitable for export. The progress of the new crop continues favourable, and a slight decline in prices for cocoons has been experienced; but so far reellers' ideas of prices for new Raw Silks appear altogether too high. A few lots of No. 1 Koshin Filatures have been offered for delivery in Yokohama during July at a parity of Yen 1,000 per picul, but no buyers have been found.

Waste Silk and Cocoons.—The market is very dull. Settlements 460 piculs, viz:—Noshi, 110 piculs; Kibiso, 350 piculs; Sundries, 10 piculs; Pierced Cocoons, 50 piculs. Present stock is estimated at 4,420 piculs, viz:—Noshi, 1,650 piculs; Kibiso, 2,550 piculs; Sundries, 170 piculs; Pierced Cocoons, 50 piculs.

Tea.—Since last Report, stocks and purchases have about kept pace, but neither have been large for the time of year. The first crop is about exhausted, and the second has not yet made its appearance. Total settlements from May 1st to June 14th amount to 65,000 piculs, against 95,000 piculs at the corresponding date last year.

TEA.

HANKOW, 14th June.—Business reported since the 7th inst., is as under:—

	1905.	1904.
Settlements	90,322	47,340
Consisting of the following Teas:—		

	1905.	1904.
Ningchows	18,347½ at Tls. 16.00 per picul.	
Khemuns	1,971 at Tls. 16.00 " "	
Oopacks	10,313 at Tls. 10.80 " "	
Oonams	30,158 at Tls. 10.60 " "	
Oonfaas	25,705 at Tls. 16.40 " "	
Seang-tams	3,828 at Tls. 11.00 " "	

The following are the statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular of last season, viz., 15th June, 1904:—

	1905.	1904.
HANKOW TEA.		
Settlements	247,898	416,780
Stock	99,798	8,395

	1905.	1904.
Arrivals	847,691	425,175

	1905.	1904.
KIUKIANG TEA.		
Settlements	127,221	168,723
Stock	42,739	25,586

	1905.	1904.
Arrivals	169,960	194,309

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 23rd June.—The prices are going upward, holders being firm.

Sheklong No. 1, White	\$9.00 to \$9.05 pels.
Do. " 2, White	7.65 to 7.70 "
Do. " 1, Brown	6.40 to 6.45 "
Do. " 2, Brown	6.05 to 6.10 "
Swatow No. 1, White	8.80 to 8.85 "
Do. " 2, White	7.50 to 7.60 "
Do. " 1, Brown	6.00 to 6.05 "
Do. " 2, Brown	5.70 to 5.75 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.50 to 12.55 "
Sheklong "	11.80 to 11.85 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 23rd June.—The prices are declining, market being dull.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.70 to \$2.75
" Round, good quality	3.95 to 4.00
" Long	4.10 to 4.15
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	3.10 to 3.15
Garden, " No. 1	3.20 to 3.25
" White	4.20 to 4.25
" Fine Cargo	4.80 to 4.85

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 24th June.

Quotations are:—	Allow'ce net to 1 catty.
Malwa New	\$1180 to — per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1230 to — do.
Malwa Older	\$1290 to — do.
Malwa V. Old	\$1370 to — do.
Persian fine quality	\$980 to — do.
Persian extra fine	\$1020 to — do.
Patna New	\$1150 to — per chest.
Patna Old	\$ — to — do.
Benares New	\$1110 to — do.
Benares Old	\$ — to — do.

COTTON.

HONGKONG 26th June.—Fair amount of business at a rise of \$0.50 per picul. Stock about 3,500 bales. Bombay \$20.00 to 21.50 per picul. Bengal (New), Rangoon } 20.00 to 24.50 " and Dacca } " Shanghai and Japanese. 25.00 to 26.50 " Tunchow and Ningpo, 25.00 to 26.50 " Reported sales 700 bales.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., in their Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 16th June, 1905, states:—The week under review has been chiefly notable for its persistency in rumours of impending Peace. We put little faith in them, or at all events in the ultimate result. It will suit Russia's book most admirably to gain a little breathing space in the way of an armistice, but we imagine Japan is too well acquainted with her habits of procrastination to be caught napping. So long as the present Government holds power in Russia, and a single soldier remains in Manchuria, all question of Peace of any permanency is out of the question, and it is useless buoying up the hope that it will be otherwise, as that will only lead to disappointment. It is really difficult to see how there can be much, if any, improvement in the present situation as regards trade in the north, that is with Manchuria more especially, even if hostilities should close. A big army of occupation would remain to be supplied, which would continue to monopolise the transport service, and it would be impossible for the country to return to the peaceful pursuit of commerce for a long time to come. We do not want to appear pessimistic, but we cannot help thinking that the stoppage to trade will last much longer and have much more disastrous effects than has so far been imagined. Meanwhile goods continue piling in and stocks are accumulating rapidly, holders being at a loss to know when any relief will come. Already the weaker of them are casting about for an outlet, especially for American goods, and are ready to grant considerable concessions in the prices, but without leading to any business. English goods have been bought with more discrimination, and have also more outlets, consequently are not in quite such a depressed state, importers of the favourite cloths finding clearances fairly satisfactory for the time of the year. The auctions are enjoying the bulk of the current business still, prices keeping quite firm under the circumstances. There is scarcely any news from the outports, and fortunately no advices of any troubles over the last settlement. The Peace rumours caused a weaker feeling with regard to exchange, and yesterday and the day before remitters were eager to settle, a considerable amount being negotiated at declining rates; but to-day, on the opening of the silk market, bankers have advanced their prices for buying again. As mentioned last week Manchester is closed for the Whitsuntide holidays and consequently no news of the market has come to hand. Cotton however, is dearer, yesterday's quotations from Liverpool being 4.65d. for Mid American and 7½d. for Egyptian. The export from Lancashire for the fortnight ending 9th instant was 18,000,000 yards. Telegraphic advices from the States are still few and far between, and we have not heard lately the quotation for Cotton in New York, although this season the American Cotton Crop has been estimated to be fully 13,600,000 bales, and according to the Bureau of Statistics the quantity brought into sight up to the 31st March was only 10,632,236 bales, against 9,206,235 bales for the same period last year. It is also admitted that the amount brought into sight the first quarter of this year was largely in excess of former years, and that the farmers are showing greater inclination to market their crops. The American mills up to that date had taken in the aggregate slightly less than they did during a corresponding period last season, but shipments to Great Britain and Europe increased 20%. The transport arrangements between that country and this still leave very much to be desired. We understand the San Francisco steamers are now scheduled to take ten days between Yokohama and this Port. The market for Yarns

continues to improve, prices for Indian being decidedly firmer, though the quantity remains very moderate. Further contracts for Local Spinnings are reported at slightly better prices. Cotton is firmer, supplies coming in very slowly now from the country. Piece Goods.—Some business has been done during the interval from first hands, but it is not at all general. Likewise a few sales have taken place for delivery next Spring of goods that were settled some time ago in Manchester. As a rule, however, there are very few first hands holders of staple goods. An enquiry has come from Chefoo for American makes and some 2,000 bales Drills and Sheetings have been resold by the native holders here to the caterers for that market.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 26th June.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$ 90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	140.00 to 160.00
" 22 to 24, ...	160.00 to 165.00
" 28 to 32, ...	167.50 to 175.00
" 38 to 42, ...	180.00 to 190.00

Reported sales 16,000 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.25
7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
8.4 lbs.	3.00 to 4.00
9 to 10 lbs.	4.10 to 5.30
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.80 to 3.00
58 to 60 "	3.10 to 3.60
64 to 66 "	3.80 to 5.40
Fine	6.10 to 8.00
Book-folds	5.30 to 8.10
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.80 to 1.00
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.20 to 2.30
7 lbs. (32 ")	2.70 to 3.00
6 lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.25 to 2.70
7 lbs. (32 ")	2.90 to 3.20
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.25 to 3.80
Drills, English—40 yds. 13½	5.10 to 8.00
to 14 lbs. }	

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to }	1.80 to 3.85
8 lbs. }	

per yard	
Brocades—Dyed	0.12½ to 0.15
Chintzes—Assorted	0.11 to 0.25
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22 to 0.45
Velveteens—18 in.	0.22 to —

per dozen	
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.57 to 0.69

WOOLLENS—

per yard	
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.70 to 2.00
German	0.60 to 0.95
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 2.50

per piece

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs.	7.75 to 8.80
Assorted	7.90 to 9.05

Camlets—Assorted	12.50 to 83.00
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches }	13.00 to 21.00
Assorted }	

Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	8.75 to 10.00
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per lb	
Blankets—5 to 12 lbs.	0.60 to 1.50

METALS—

per picul	
Iron—Nail Rod	4.02½ to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.02½ to —
Swedish Bar	4.05 to —
Small Round Rod	4.40 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	6.20 to —
Wire, 16/25 oz.	9.50 to —
Wire Rope, Old	3.00 to —
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.60 to —
Australian	8.60 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	41.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	41.00 to —
Elliott's 14/20 oz.	41.00 to —
Composition Nails	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	38.50 to —

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, June 14th, 1905.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

per picul	
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 34.60
Do. Seconds	30.50
Buffalo hides, Best Selected	17.00
Goatskins, Untanned, chiefly white color	55.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	7.50
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or	
Poochi	12.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	11.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	13.00
Jute	4.75
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	9.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchew	
and/or Macheng	8.60
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	8.00
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	11.00
Animal Tallow	9.50

Gallnuts, Usual shape.....	Tls. 17.00
Do. Plum do.	18.00
Tobacco, Tingchow	7.50
Do. Wongkong	9.00
Black Bristles	110.00
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck ..	(nom.)
Wild Duck	(")
Turmeric	8.50
Sesamum Seed	4.25
Sesamum Seed Oil	8.00
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	(nom.)
Wood Oil	7.85
Tea Oil	(nom.)

Per P. & O. steamer *Bengal*, sailed on 17th June. For London:—1,166 packages tea (Foochow), 24 cases Turkey opium, 4 packages sundries, 2 cases silks, 287 packages tea, 10 bales raw silk, 116 bales waste silk, 3 packages private effects and curios, 169 rolls mats and matting, 18 cases china-ware, 2 cases feathers. For Marseilles:—100 bales waste silk, 79 bales raw silk. For Glasgow:—30 rolls mats and matting. For Manchester:—150 bales waste silk. For Havre or London:—17 cases bamboo hats. For St. Chamond:—10 bales raw silk. For Milan:—30 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—249 bales raw silk. For Gibraltar:—1 case curios, 2 packages silk private goods.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 23rd June, 1905.—With the exception of a demand for Banks, China Traders and Raubs at an higher rate than quoted last week, and for Docks at the reduced rate of \$192, the market has continued to be a selling one, and rates generally have further declined, although not to any great extent. The continued tightness of money among the Chinese is one of the chief factors in the dullness we have still to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have further improved to \$807½ with buyers, after an unsatisfied small demand at \$805. Shares appear to be very scarce and the few which are now held in China are nearly all in the hands of investors; share on the China Register have for some time past been gradually going into the hands of home investors, and the process appears to be still proceeding. The latest London quotation by Reuter is £84. 10s. 0d. Market closes firm. Nationals remain unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been placed in small lots at \$695 and \$692½, and an exceptionally small sale has been effected at \$607½ for August delivery. Cantons have ruled very quiet, and with pressure from Chinese holders, a forced sale has been made at \$312½; market closes steady at \$317½. China Traders. With a continuation of the demand at \$65, and in the absence of forthcoming shares, the market gradually improved to \$70 with small sales; the demand however at time of closing is still greater than the supply, and the rate looks as though it would be maintained or even improve. There are many vague rumours for the sudden favour extended to this stock; but if there is any exceptional reason, beyond the likelihood of a better result of the working of the Company for the financial year ended 30th April, the secret is well kept, and nothing is known to the man in the street. North Chinas and Yangtszes remain unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have been placed at \$300, but no more are obtainable at that rate. Chinas are on offer at \$87 but without business.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue to find buyers at \$27 and small sales have been effected at that rate. Indos have further declined to \$100 with sales and sellers. Shanghai quotes Tls. 71 sellers. Douglas s are procurable in a small way at \$35½ and Shells at 22½. China and Manila have receded to \$21 without sales, and Star Ferries remain with sellers at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have changed hands at \$215, closing with likely sellers at that rate. Luzons have receded to \$31 without sales. MINING.—Raubs have advanced to \$5½ with buyers and no shares available, holders refusing to part now that prospects are reported brighter for the deep level borings.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been placed as low as \$19 for the settlement, the sale in all probability being a forced one. Several buyers, however, came into the market at that rate and the rate gradually recovered to \$192, at which

shares could probably be placed at time of closing. Kowloon Wharves have been on offer at \$95 without finding buyers, but at time of closing one or two small odd lots could be placed at that rate. Farnhams have gone back to \$158 in Shanghai, but are in demand at that. New Amoy Docks unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands, on the rumour of a \$3 int rim dividend, have further declined to \$120 with sellers and no sales. Hotels have ruled weak with sellers at \$143. Humphreys' have found buyers at \$12½. Shanghai Lands have advanced to Tls. 121 with buyers.

COTTON MILLS.—No change or business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have declined to \$12 with sellers. Green Islands, Watsons and Electrics have changed hands at \$26½, \$12½ and \$17½ respectively. We lay nothing else to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY	PAID UP	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$802½, buyers
National B. of China	£5	\$37, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$5½, buyers
China-Borneo Co.		\$12, sellers
China Light & P. Co.		\$10
China Provident		\$10
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 40, buyers
Hongkong		\$16½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 36
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 39
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 180, sellers
Dairy Farm		\$6
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 158, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.		\$50
H. & W. Dock		\$50
New Amoy Dock		\$6½
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 180
Fenwick & Co., Geo.		\$25
G. Island Cement		\$10
Hongkong & C. Gas		\$10
Hongkong Electric		\$10
Do. New		\$5
H. H. L. Tramways		\$100
Hongkong Hotel Co.		\$50
Hongkong Ice Co.		\$25
Hongkong Rope Co.		\$50
H'kong S. Waterboat		\$10
Insurance—		
Canton		\$50
China Fire		\$20
China Traders		\$25
Hongkong Fire		\$50
North China		\$25
Union		\$100
Yangtsze		\$60
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.		\$100
Humphreys' Estate		\$10
Do. New		\$10
Kowloon Land & B.		\$30
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 121, buyers
WestPoint Building		\$50
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubs	18. 10	\$5½, buyers
Philippine Co.		\$10
Refineries—		
China Sugar		\$100
Luzon Sugar		\$100
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila		\$25
Douglas Steamship		\$50
H. Canton & M.		\$15
Indo-China S.N. Co.		\$10
Shell Transport Co.		\$1
Do. Preference		\$10
Star Ferry		\$10
Do. New		\$5
Shanghai & H. Dyeing		\$5½
South China M. Post		\$25
Steam Laundry Co.		\$5
Do. New		\$3
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.		\$10
Powell & Co., Wm.		\$10
Watkins		\$10
Watson & Co., A. S.		\$10
United Asbestos		\$4
Do. Founders		\$10

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset and Co.'s Share Report, for the week ending June 15th, 1905, states:—The principal feature in the market during the past week has been a further decline in Indo-China shares. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 2/7½. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. These have been done at \$797.50 ex. 73 and from Hongkong \$802.50. Marine Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indo-China. The market opened on the 8th with sales at 74½ cash, 75/6½ July, 76/6½ September. On the 9th a purchase was made from Hongkong at \$106; locally shares changed hands for July and September at Tls. 77. On the 10th July shares were placed at Tls. 76. On the 13th at Tls. 74½ and 14th Tls. 71 June; and Tls. 73½ July. The market closes slightly stronger with buyers at the low rates. Shanghai Tugs. Preference shares have been sold at Tls. 50 and Ordinary 60 cash, Tls. 81 June. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyds. A considerable business has been done during the week, the rates being very steady; Tls. 163/62/61 June. Tls. 164/5/3½ Tls. 162 July; August Tls. 164/63/65/66. September Tls. 167. The market closes steady with buyers. S. & H. Wharves. Business has been done at Tls. 185 and 190 June; Tls. 190, 189 July; Tls. 192/1/94/93 September. Tls. 191 October. Sugars.—China Sugars have been placed from Hongkong at \$218. Peraks have changed hands at \$70 and \$71 cash and \$73 July. Mining.—Weihaiwei Golds have been placed at \$12 cum call. The meeting took place on the 13th inst., when the Chairman informed those present of an interesting account of the developments of the Co. The prospects of the Co. have never been so good as they are now. Land.—Shanghai Lands have been placed at Tls. 120 cash. Industrial.—In cotton stocks Ews have changed hands at Tls. 37 cash and June, and Laou-kung-mows at Tls. 40. China Flours have been placed at Tls. 62½. Pulps at Tls. 170; Shanghai Gas at Tls. 125, and Ice at Tls. 26. Langkats. The market has been quiet during the week. Sales have been affected for cash at Tls. 227½ and 225, 231½ and 227½ July. The market closes with sellers at Tls. 220 ex div. paid to-day. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz at \$27 and Astor House at \$31 cash and \$30 June. Hotel des Colonies at Tls. 17½ for June. Miscellaneous.—Telephones at Tls. 68. Dallas Horse Repository at Tls. 40. Loans and Debentures.—Astor House 8 per cent. at 5% premium.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 26th June.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	235½
Credits 4 months' sight	238½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	191½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	45½
Credits, 60 days' sight	46½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	139½
Bank, on demand	140
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	139½
Bank, on demand	140
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71
Private, 30 days' sight	72
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	91½
ON MANILA.—On demand	92
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	6 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	112½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	1½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	1½ p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	6½
SEVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.60
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$58
SILVER, per 4z.	27½

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports (via Shanghai):—46/- plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre (via Shanghai):—Tea and General Cargo 41/6 plus river freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross plus river freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea and General Cargo 32/- per ton. To Shanghai.—Tea and General Cargo Tael 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

June—ARRIVALS.

18, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 18, Petrarch, German str., from Hongay.
 19, Australian, British str., from Sydney.
 19, Chiyeun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 19, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 19, Hedwig Menzell, Ger. str., from Canton.
 19, Hua, French str., from Kwangchauwan.
 19, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
 19, Paklat, German str., from Bangkok.
 19, Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., from Sydney.
 19, Promise, Norwegian str., from Anping.
 19, Triumph, German str., from Shanghai.
 19, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 19, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 20, Anamba, Danish str., from Hongay.
 20, Bechuana, British str., from London.
 20, Chibli, British str., from Canton.
 20, El-Kantara, French str., from Haiphong.
 20, Emma Luyken, Ger. str., from Swatow.
 20, Glenturret, British str., from Moji.
 20, Kwangle, Chinese str., from Canton.
 20, Kweilin, British str., from Canton.
 20, Royalist, British str., from Canton.
 20, Sea Lion, British str., from Cardiff.
 20, Saisang, British str., from Calcutta.
 20, Tashing, British str., from Taku.
 21, Ajax, British str., from Liverpool.
 21, Calchas, British str., from Foochow.
 21, Derwent, British str., from Saigon.
 21, Ecclesia, British str., from Hamburg.
 21, Formosa, British str., from London.
 21, Hanyang, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 21, Hsieh Ho, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 21, Ithaka, German str., from Chinkiang.
 21, J. Diedrichsen, Ger. str., from Pakhoi.
 21, Kansu, British str., from Tientsin.
 21, Labuan, British str., from Batum.
 21, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 21, Sachsen, German str., from Bremen.
 21, Stettin, British str., from Langkat.
 21, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.
 21, Zieten, German str., from Yokohama.
 22, Alamo, British str., from Moji.
 22, Ardova, British str., from Kuchinotsu.
 22, O. Ferd. Laeisz, Ger. str., from Foochow.
 22, China, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 22, Heta, German str., from Singapore.
 22, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
 22, Maria Rickmers, German str., from Moji.
 22, Proteus, Norwegian str., from Tamsui.
 22, Yunnan, British str., from Wuhu.
 22, Zweena, British str., from Shanghai.
 23, Elise Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 23, Esang, British str., from Tientsin.
 23, Haila, French str., from Pakhoi.
 23, Hainan, French str., from Hoifow.
 23, Nordpols, Norwegian str., from Kelung.
 23, Regina, British str., from Calcutta.
 23, Team, British str., from Manila.
 23, Tientsin, British str., from London.
 24, Ailsa Craig, British str., from Kanton.
 24, Aldershot, British str., from Chinkiang.
 24, Amara, British str., from Chinkiang.
 24, Emma Luyken, Ger. str., from Swatow.
 24, Holstein, German str., from Haiphong.
 24, Hong Bee, British str., from Singapore.
 24, Kowloon, German str., from Chinkiang.
 24, Maria Valerie, Aust. str., from Kobe.
 24, Rio Lima, Portuguese g.-bt., from Macao.
 24, Sh-mosa, British str., from Manila.
 25, Diadem, British cruiser, from Singapore.
 25, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 25, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.

June—DEPARTURES.

18, Banca, British str., for London.
 18, Foo-hing, British str., for Canton.
 18, Kweilin, British str., for Canton.
 19, Andromeda, British str., for Weihaiwei.
 19, Dagny, Norwegian str., for Newchwang.
 19, Iphigenia, British cruiser, for Singapore.
 19, Loyal, German str., for Kobe.
 19, Taishun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 19, Waterwitch, British s.-v., for a cruise.
 20, Chiyeun, Chinese str., for Canton.
 20, Deucalion, British str., for London.
 20, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 20, Hopsang, British str., for Samarang.
 20, Langdale, British str., for Singapore.
 20, Minnesota, British str., for Seattle.
 20, Oceano, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Prinz Waldemar, German str., for Kobe.
 20, Promise, Norwegian str., for Anping.
 20, Scott, British str., for Shanghai.

20, Tamag, British str., for Manila.
 20, Thyra, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 21, Calchas, British str., for London.
 21, Broholm, Danish str., for Saigon.
 21, Chinkiang, British str., for Chefoo.
 21, Chingtu, British str., for Kobe.
 21, Clavering, British str., for Salina Cruz.
 21, Deccan, British ship, for Royal Road.
 21, El Kantara, French str., for Shanghai.
 21, Emma Luyken, German str., for Swatow.
 21, Empr. of India, British str., for Vancouver.
 21, Hero, Norwegian str., for Kuchinotsu.
 21, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 21, Kanga, British str., for Canton.
 21, Kwangle, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 21, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.
 21, Pitsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
 21, Signal, German str., for Hoifow.
 22, Bechuana, British str., for Nagasaki.
 22, Beechley, British str., for Calcutta.
 22, Borneo, German str., for Shanghai.
 22, Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
 22, Hanyang, British str., for Canton.
 22, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
 22, Ithaka, British str., for Canton.
 22, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 22, Petrarch, German str., for Hongay.
 22, Providence, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 22, Sachsen, German str., for Shanghai.
 22, Shaohsing, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Triumph, German str., for Shanghai.
 22, Zaida, British str., for Amoy.
 22, Zieten, German str., for Europe.
 23, Australian, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Chibli, British str., for Tientsin.
 23, Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
 23, Nairn, British str., for Newcastle.
 23, Stettin, British str., for Canton.
 23, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 23, Yunnan, British str., for Canton.
 24, Ajax, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Esang, British str., for Canton.
 24, Fausang, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 24, Hellas, German str., for Hankow.
 24, Hsieh Ho, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 24, Kweilin, British str., for Hoifow.
 24, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
 24, Paklat, German str., for Bangkok.
 24, Riverdale, British str., for Batavia.
 24, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 25, Anamba, Danish str., for Tientsin.
 25, Arratoon Apear, Brit. str., for Canton.
 25, O. Ferd. Laeisz, Ger. str., for Hamburg.
 25, Emma Luyken, German str., for Swatow.
 25, Fong-osa, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, J. Diedrichsen, German str., for Pakhoi.
 25, Kowloon, German str., for Canton.
 25, Proteus, Norwegian str., for Tamsui.
 25, Yatsing, British str., for Foochow.

PASSENGER LIST.

* ARRIVED.

Per Sachsen, for Hongkong from Bremen.
 Messrs. Wilh. Tonksen and Arthur Neidts from
 Genoa. Messrs. H. Bent, Theo. Hasche and
 Hans Kleinow; from Colombo, Mr. G. G. S.
 Forsyth; from Singapore, Mr. D. C. Alexander.
 Dr. L. E. Reel, Messrs. A. B. Linton, Paul
 Luttringhaus, S. K. Wong and G. Alex. for
 Shanghai from Bremen, Messrs. W. H. and
 Cole, C. T. B. Schmidt, Miss G. P. Schöner,
 Franz Buchenauer, and Mrs. G. P. Trim-
 born; from Southampton, Mrs. E. R. Marten,
 W. O. Law, and Miss G. Boulton; from Genoa,
 Messrs. Max Book, Paul Meisen, Scherdt-
 feger, Ad. Pfaffenreuter, H. Steinbock, Martin
 Michael, Chinyan Tao, Hans Dab. lstein, Rohde,
 Karl Diesing, Bohrmeister Ed. Schenk, and
 John Meinke; from Port Said, Mr. A. Tanaka;
 from Singapore, Mr. H. D. Busset, Mrs. F.
 Stetson, Messrs. de Bondy, A. Hebekost and
 Davis Sommerfeld; for Nagasaki from Bremen,
 Carl Dietrich and Carl Deliron; from Singa-
 pore, Mrs. Okiyo, Mrs. Kitayema Toa, Mrs.
 Ketayema Elgi, Messrs. S. Yoshida, Okamoto,
 and Yamaguchi; from Kobe from Genoa, Mr.
 Albert Moeh and Mrs. T. Schwindt; from
 Singapore, Mrs. Osay and Mr. T. Sawara; for
 Yokohama from Antwerp, Mr. and Mrs. F.
 Yantzen; from Southampton, Mr. A. Kuik;
 from Genoa, Mr. U. Orita; from Naples, Mrs.
 F. W. Wandertich; from Colombo, Mr. Richd.
 Curtius.

DEPARTED.

Per Empress of India, for Vancouver, &c.,
 Messrs. A. M. Hollins and S. Gask, Mr. and
 Mrs. J. T. McIntosh, Mrs. and Miss George,

Messrs. R. Muckly, H. C. Lecky and R. B.
 Vaughan, Comdr. and Mrs. G. A. Rose, Rt. Rev.
 and Mrs. J. C. Hoare, 3 daughters and son;
 Miss Griffin, Mr. E. E. W. Stringer, Dr. H. Mc-
 Dougal, Messrs. R. J. Smaiden, J. Stuart
 Smith, Mrs. Chas. Seymour, Dr. and Mrs. P. B.
 Cousland, Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Hauser and
 daughter and 2 sons, Miss Gordon, Mr. Rowland
 Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Squire Hill, Mr. John
 Brown, Mrs. E. D. Thompson, Mrs. W.
 Knake, Messrs. W. J. Sowden, Jas. C. Fraser,
 W. L. Ware, R. and G. O'Connor, Thos. and E.
 A. Bennison, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Clifford,
 Misses Clifford (2), Miss Keating, Messrs. R. E.
 Bush, W. A. Collins, M. H. Mehta, H. C. Golla,
 H. Ruffonjee, C. B. King, Rev. and Mrs. H.
 Shipman, Lieut. and Mrs. C. G. Brownlee, Capt.
 R. Wadle, Major A. A. Maney, Lieut. Hobbs
 and Butler, Mrs. N. Decker, Mr. H. L. Hutchin-
 son, Major G. W. S. Patterson, Messrs. Ryle
 Holmes and S. J. Soper, Mr. and Mrs. P. E.
 Dudley, Mrs. and Miss D. MacHaffie, Rev. F.
 T. Johnson, Messrs. V. Elecano, Robert
 Greenock, Mr. and Mrs. M. Rose, Messrs. K.
 Shennizel, A. G. Reed, J. Warrall, E. Wallace,
 E. G. Harris, H. Dyer and A. T. Fraser.

Per Coptic, for China and Japan ports,
 Messrs. A. B. Palmer, H. P. White, T. Sugita
 and E. W. Tilden; for San Francisco, &c., Mr.
 R. Shetford, Mr. N. C. Noblett, Mrs. A. Kober,
 Mr. Emil Schmidt, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Mitchell,
 Mr. J. Bacon, Mrs. Wm. Ladd, Messrs. E. J.
 Ward and R. A. Wilbur, Mr. and Mrs. C. H.
 Foss, Lieut. D. A. Hopkins, P.C., Messrs. J. E.
 Wilkie, W. G. Henshaw, John H. Helms, Thos.
 Shaffer, Rev. S. N. Hesser, Miss S. Brinton,
 Lieut. Comdr. C. F. Pond, U.S.N., Lieut. E. P.
 Svarz, Walter Cox, Chas. Matson and J. B.
 Huff.

Per Sachsen, for Shanghai, Messrs. Petersen,
 F. Ezra, Bryant, F. Conceicao and H. E. Wolf,
 Misses A. Aquino and M. Silvo, Mrs. Marques
 Silva, and Mrs. Figueiredo; for Nagasaki, Mr.
 Evans, Messrs. Furukawa, Tamaki, Makaki,
 Suzuki, Morakami, Metami, Sababa, Imae, and
 Nakamoto; for Kobe, Mr. M. Kobayashi; for
 Yokohama, Mr. and Miss Binyay, Mrs. Down-
 ing, Misses F. P. Winn and C. M. Stowell.

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